

**Stainbeck Church (United Reformed)**

# **OUTLOOK**

**JULY & AUGUST 2026**



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

<https://stainbeckurc.org.uk>

Stainbeck Road,  
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**July August 2026**



## Welcome

I wonder, what does the word ‘Welcome’ mean for you? For me, it’s about being accepted for who I am, offering and receiving generous hospitality and experiencing a sense of belonging.

“All are welcome” is something all churches say, and we are no exception. We pride ourselves on having greeters on the door, making sure we chat to people who may be new and providing spaces to be alongside our wider community.

For the last several months, England flags have been appearing on flag posts and roundabouts. Now let’s be clear, there’s nothing wrong with being proud of your country. I’m very proud to be Scottish! Yet when the flags popped up a few months ago there was a deep undercurrent of hostility rather than welcome to those from overseas seeking sanctuary or a home in the UK.

By contrast, welcome is one of the foundations of our faith, and following Jesus’ Way today is about exemplifying the holy habit of hospitality. Time and time again, we see in Jesus’ encounters, hospitality is not to be directed only towards those who may share the same faith, ethnicity or culture. Jesus’ words: ‘Whoever welcomes you welcomes me’ and teaching reminds us that each person is made in the image of God. And when we welcome another, we welcome God in whose image we are all made.

Jesus’ followers were likely rather uncomfortable hearing him talk about this kind of welcome. In the Judea of the first century everyone was defined and identified by the groups they belonged to: family, tribe, religion, region, social status, profession. And who you welcomed in your home or place of worship, mattered.

Clear religious and cultural boundaries delineated who belonged, and who was part of the community. One of the main criticisms levelled at Jesus during his ministry was that he kept breaking these rules. He kept welcoming, and allowing himself to be welcomed by, all sorts of people. Jesus was constantly extending and expanding his welcome.

What if we did the same? What might that look like? How might we begin to offer others this kind of radical welcome? Because when we welcome others, we don't just welcome them, we welcome those communities they belong to, and we welcome Christ in whose image we are all made.

In our churches, communities and world today, walking the way of Jesus today needs to be guided by actively welcoming and being hospitable.

**Nicola**

## HERE AND THERE

### Looking back .....

As I look back through the church diary for June and my own diary too it seems that last month has been fairly quiet, just ending in a blaze of sunshine and a great deal of football!

How good it is to enjoy some good weather, to walk through our blooming **Community Garden** and see all the newly planted fruit trees in the orchard. We are grateful too to **Eamon, Ian, Chris** and the team of '**Green Men**' who have cut back all the hedges along the road side and generally weeded and tidied. What a great job they are doing. We are so fortunate to have so many who willingly give of their time to help the community around us.

Those who are regular **Thursday Café** visitors will have found that we have 'spread our wings' - tables are now placed in church as well as in the Café Room which gives a much safer and more accessible space for us all. It has been good to welcome some newcomers including a group of child minders and their little ones.



We have two regular teams of volunteers who serve us but it would be a real blessing to add a third group. If this is something you would like to try why not have a word with Avril, Maureen or Revds Nicola or Angela. A great way to get to know one another better.



We are delighted that new **hand rails** have been placed in church to enable people, when necessary, to go up the steps into the sanctuary without fear of falling or wobbling. Thank you to Adrian, with support of MAP, for organising and fitting them securely. A job well done!

On the last Saturday in June I was fortunate enough to spend time in the Cabin which had been transformed into a **Prayer Room** for the day. This was the initiative of **Jennie Firth** and a small number from our Churches Together Group. Six or so creative prayer centres were offered for visitors including a prayer labyrinth out on the grass and of course there was always the garden to sit in or walk around. It was peaceful within the Cabin and the welcome was warm and gentle. There was time to be solitary and reflect privately or time to share with another.

Jennie reflects *'There were lots of great conversations as well as prayerful ones going on. All part of the day. Everyone who joined in say they were glad that they did.'* I can certainly confirm that and I thank Jennie and her team for the opportunity provided.

### **Looking forward.....**

The third **Green Fair** is to be held on **Sunday 12th July on Gledhow Valley Road** which will be closed to traffic for the event. Stalls will be held alongside the road. There will be many activities for children and adults alike. Help is needed on the Churches Together stall... please let Nicola or Ann know if you are able to offer your support. Please see the flyer for more details.

On **Sunday afternoon July 19<sup>th</sup> Messy Church** is planning to hold its **Summer Barbecue** on the grass at Stainbeck. Lots of fun, games and activities...and BBQ food too. Please spread the news of this happy celebration!

The Messy church family are very busy as the school holidays get under way - the Annual **Holiday Club** will be held at Chapel Allerton Methodist Church on the mornings of 21<sup>st</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> of July. Opportunity to sign up for three mornings of fun and creativity are available – contact Helen Greenwood (messy@thriveleeds.org.uk).

The **MEANWOOD OLYMPICS** organised by **InterACT, Church and Community Partnership**, runs for the 15<sup>th</sup> time at Woodhouse Cricket Club on Meanwood Road. Don't miss this great community event for young and old alike. There are flyers in Church and on the website. Great events for family participation. More details from Maureen (07877 394 816).

## DIARY FOR JULY

### Elders on Duty – Avril & Brian Bellwood

|     |                  |             |                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|-----|------------------|-------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Wed | 1 <sup>st</sup>  | 7.00pm      | Monthly Pride Church Service at Leeds Minster – 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 | 2 <sup>nd</sup>  | 11-1pm      | Community Café open for tea, coffee, sandwiches, toasties and friendship                                                                                                                     |
|     |                  | 7.30pm      | <b>Zoom opens for Partnership Prayers led by Revd. Angela Hughes</b>                                                                                                                         |
| Sun | 5 <sup>th</sup>  | 10.45am     | <b>Hybrid worship led by Revd Dr Rosalind Selby</b>                                                                                                                                          |
| Mon | 6 <sup>th</sup>  | 11-2pm      | Lunch Club                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Thu | 9 <sup>th</sup>  | 11-1pm      | Community Café open for tea, coffee, sandwiches, toasties and friendship                                                                                                                     |
|     |                  | 7.30pm      | <b>Zoom opens for Thursday Prayers led by Karen Benjamin</b>                                                                                                                                 |
| Sun | 12 <sup>th</sup> | 10.45am     | <b>Hybrid worship with Holy Communion led by Revd Angela Hughes</b>                                                                                                                          |
|     |                  | 11-4pm      | <b>Gledhow Valley Green Fair (see p5)</b>                                                                                                                                                    |
| Mon | 13 <sup>th</sup> | 11-2pm      | Lunch Club                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Thu | 16 <sup>th</sup> | 11-1pm      | Community Café open for tea, coffee, sandwiches, toasties and friendship                                                                                                                     |
| Fri | 17 <sup>th</sup> | 7.00pm      | <b>Leeds Pride Celebration Service at Leeds Minster</b>                                                                                                                                      |
|     |                  | 7.30pm      | <b>Zoom opens for Thursday Prayers led by Ann Coates</b>                                                                                                                                     |
| Sun | 19 <sup>th</sup> | 10.45am     | <b>Hybrid worship led by Revd Andy Hobbs</b>                                                                                                                                                 |
|     |                  | 3.30-5.30pm | <b>Messy Church summer celebration in the Church grounds – see p5)</b>                                                                                                                       |
|     |                  | 12.00       | <b>Christians and friends at Leeds Pride Parade</b>                                                                                                                                          |
| Mon | 20 <sup>th</sup> | noon        |                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|     |                  | 11-2pm      | Lunch Club                                                                                                                                                                                   |

**Tuesday 21st to Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup>**  
**Messy Church Holiday Club held at**  
**Chapel Allerton Methodist Church – see p5**

|     |                  |         |                                                                                  |
|-----|------------------|---------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Thu | 23 <sup>rd</sup> | 11-1pm  | Community Café open for tea, coffee, cakes, sandwiches, toasties and friendship. |
|     |                  | 7.30pm  | <b>Thursday Prayers led by Claire Jones</b>                                      |
| Sun | 26 <sup>th</sup> | 10.45am | Hybrid Morning Worship led by Revd. Geoff Ellis                                  |
| Mon | 27 <sup>th</sup> | 11-2pm  | Lunch Club                                                                       |
| Thu | 30 <sup>th</sup> | 11-1pm  | Community Café open for tea, coffee, cakes, sandwiches, toasties and friendship  |
|     |                  | 7.30pm  | <b>Thursday prayers led by Avril and Brian Bellwood</b>                          |

## DIARY FOR AUGUST

### Elder on Duty – Brian Bellwood

|     |                  |         |                                                                                                          |
|-----|------------------|---------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Sun | 2 <sup>nd</sup>  | 10.45am | Hybrid Morning Worship led by Revd Dr Nicola Robinson                                                    |
| Mon | 3 <sup>rd</sup>  | 11-2pm  | LUNCH CLUB CLOSED                                                                                        |
| Wed | 5 <sup>th</sup>  | 12-3pm  | <b>Meanwood Olympics (see p5)</b>                                                                        |
| Thu | 6 <sup>th</sup>  | 11-1pm  | Community Café open for tea, coffee, cakes, sandwiches toasties and friendship. All welcome              |
|     |                  | 7.30pm  | <b>Zoom opens for Partnership Prayers led by Revd Dr Nicola Robinson</b>                                 |
| Sun | 9 <sup>th</sup>  | 10.45am | Hybrid morning worship led by Sheila Akerman, Elder at Knaresborough URC and former member at Stainbeck. |
| Mon | 10 <sup>th</sup> | 11-1pm  | LUNCH CLUB CLOSED                                                                                        |
| Wed | 12 <sup>th</sup> | 12-3pm  | <b>Meanwood Olympics (see p5)</b>                                                                        |

|     |                  |         |                                                                                               |
|-----|------------------|---------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Thu | 13 <sup>th</sup> | 11-1pm  | Community Café open for tea, coffee, cakes, sandwiches, toasties and friendship. All welcome. |
|     |                  | 7.30pm  | <b>Zoom opens for Thursday prayers led by Revd Angela Hughes</b>                              |
| Sun | 16 <sup>th</sup> | 10.45am | <b>Hybrid morning worship led by Revd Angela Hughes.</b>                                      |
| Mon | 17 <sup>th</sup> | 11-1pm  | LUNCH CLUB CLOSED                                                                             |
| Wed | 19 <sup>th</sup> | 12-3pm  | <b>Meanwood Olympics (see p5)</b>                                                             |
| Thu | 20 <sup>th</sup> | 11-1pm  | Community Café open for tea, coffee, cakes, sandwiches, toasties and friendship. All welcome. |
|     |                  | 7.30pm  | <b>Zoom opens for Thursday prayers led by Ann Coates</b>                                      |
| Sun | 23 <sup>rd</sup> | 10.45am | <b>Hybrid morning worship led by Revd Steven Dixon. Former member at Stainbeck.</b>           |
| Mon | 24 <sup>th</sup> | 11-1pm  | LUNCH CLUB CLOSED                                                                             |
| Thu | 27 <sup>th</sup> | 11-1pm  | Café open for tea, coffee, cakes, sandwiches, toasties and friendship                         |
|     |                  | 7.30pm  | <b>Zoom opens for Thursday prayers led by Claire Jones</b>                                    |
| Sun | 30 <sup>th</sup> | 10.45am | <b>Hybrid worship led by Dr Moira Gallagher, Elder at Wigton Moor URC.</b>                    |
| Mon | 31 <sup>st</sup> | 11-1pm  | <b>LUNCH CLUB CLOSED<br/>BANK HOLIDAY</b>                                                     |

## DATE FOR SEPTEMBER

|     |                 |                                               |                                              |
|-----|-----------------|-----------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| Sat | 5 <sup>th</sup> | <b>All day! Chapel Allerton Arts Festival</b> |                                              |
| Sun | 6 <sup>th</sup> | 10.30am                                       | <b>Hymns in the Street (HitS)</b>            |
|     |                 |                                               | <b>NB No service at Stainbeck this week.</b> |

A reminder of the Stainbeck link:

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

And so to September and the **Chapel Allerton Arts Festival**. On Saturday 5th Sept much to do and see and join in with in the streets and on **Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> Sept**, at 10.30am, **Hymns in the Street**.

This is always an uplifting event and this year is led by Chapel Allerton Methodist Church. Based on the '*I Am*' sayings of Jesus Stainbeck's focus is '*I am the light of the world*'.

We have all known dark times. If you can recall an occasion in your own life when you have been aware of the light of Jesus bringing you comfort, hope, clarification or support in some way in your hour of need, perhaps you could share it with us? A few words written to describe your experience which you, or another, could share in this service? We all have stories and they are powerful.

If this is something you can do please share with your Elder or with Nicola.

There is also a call for **musicians** to lead the hymn singing. Singers and instrumentalists of all kinds will be very welcome. Nick Seddon from St Matthews has again agreed to coordinate the music so please will you let Nicola or Helen Booth know of your willingness to be a part of this group. Nick would like this information by 6<sup>th</sup> August please.



Could you spare 1.5 hours a week to support local young people? Thrive are seeking some new adult volunteers to join our youth work team alongside our young volunteers. This is an opportunity to engage with the wider community, build meaningful relationships with young people, and play a part in creating safe and supportive spaces. We particularly need support at:

- A new Hangout space on Mondays from 6:45-8:15pm based at the Cabin in the grounds of Stainbeck Church
- WOW, our Wednesday evening group from 7:45-9:15pm at the Methodist Centre, which involves exploring Christian faith

If you'd like to explore getting involved, we would love to hear from you. Speak to your Thrive trustees or get in touch:

[contact@thriveleeds.org.uk](mailto:contact@thriveleeds.org.uk) or 07918029840.

<https://thriveleeds.org.uk>

## Meet the team: Rev Tim Lowe

I was born and grew up by the seaside, in Southend-on-Sea. My family had always been Methodist, until we decided to move to our local United Reformed Church. In time I helped lead the youth group and served on a committee to redevelop our old church buildings. I became a Church Member at the age of nineteen, just before heading off to university.

In my mid teens, after spending six months working full time as a Studio Junior for the graphic design studio at Barnardo's, I returned to sixth form college to study art, social biology and communication studies. In 1989 I moved away from home to study *Media & Design* at Portsmouth Polytechnic. When I left university in the early 1990's design work was scarce, so I worked in a warehouse to pay off my student debts. It was during this time that I got even more involved in church life, especially with FURY. After taking our youth group to the URC's new National Youth Resource Centre at Yardley Hastings, in Northamptonshire, I had unwittingly reached a pivotal moment in my life.

In 1993 I started an adventure for thirteen months as a full-time volunteer Community Team Member at Yardley Hastings. I got involved in office work, domestic and kitchen work, leading groups, daily prayers and worship. It was whilst here that I felt a call to train for ministry (and I also met my future wife – Rachel!).

I moved to live in Manchester, to study full-time for ministry on a contextual theology course, which linked academic study with church and community placements. I was ordained in 1998 into a single pastorate in St Leonards-on-Sea, East Sussex. Our first two children – Jacob and



Emma – were born whilst we were living in Hastings. From there we

moved to Stafford, where I was minister to a large church in the busy town centre, which ran a volunteer staffed tea room for six days a week. In time I also took on two Methodist churches. Our youngest daughter, Esther, was born whilst we were living in Stafford. We were sent to Coventry in 2011 (yes, I've heard all the jokes!), serving as part of the Coventry group of URCs.

I have served the wider church in various ways: on the URC Children's and Youth Work Committee; Pilot's Management Committee; Big Day Out, leading worship at Warwick Castle; I've been the URC representative on the Roots worship and learning resource Editorial and Management Groups; I enjoy writing 3-4 times a year for Roots online material, and have written larger pieces for the magazine resource twice; I served as Chaplain to URC Youth Executive from 2016-17, which included leading worship at URC Youth Assembly; and I have worked for the URC at Greenbelt Festival.

2017 brought us to Leeds, when I accepted the call to serve with St Andrew's Roundhay. Then came the formation of the Leeds URC Partnership in 2022 and the opportunity to be part of a wonderful ministry team across eight churches. I have always felt my ministry is based on co-operation, friendship and equality, not authority – which is why I love the whole URC ethos! I feel called to work with and alongside other members – a ministry of all believers in the truest sense. I see it as my role to enable and encourage the gifts of others in all areas of Christian discipleship.

In my ministry I particularly enjoy: creative, collaborative and reflective worship; opportunities to use visual arts and reflect upon contemporary visual culture; campaigns for justice issues; writing for worship resources, such as Roots; making links between our faith and popular culture; informal discussion/study groups; and being part of the wider URC.

I believe in a church: that has no boundaries or limits; that gives space for people's imagination and chance to be awesomely creative; to be a Christian community where all are ministers and story-tellers, using our collective gifts to share God's kingdom of love with those we live alongside. My personal interests in the past have included tennis, sailing, karate, art and taking part in dramas/musicals. Nowadays I try to go out with my father-in-law's walking group most Wednesdays, whilst my more nerdy interests include cars, Lego and watching adventure films.



Whilst my faith in God and my ministry have been central to my life for so long, my family has always been equally important to me. It would be fair to say we have faced some serious challenges together in recent years. As we look forward to attending this year's big Roundhay Festival, I find myself enthused and encouraged by the lyrics of one of Lewis Capaldi's more recent songs:

*"I swear to God, I'll survive  
If it kills me to  
I'm gonna get up and try  
If it's the last thing I do  
I've still got something to give  
Though it hurts sometimes  
I'm gonna get up and live  
Until the day that I die  
I swear to God, I'll survive"*

*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**

# THE FIFTEENTH Meanwood Olympics

Free Family Fun!

12-3PM, WEDS AUG 5TH, 12TH & 19TH 2026

Family Games, DJ Dan, Crafts and Stalls, Sports,  
Final Day Medals and so much more!  
Bring a picnic or buy hot food on site at low cost

**NEW FOR 2026. HOBBY HORSE RACING  
WITH NGB HOBBY HORSE UK**

**WOODHOUSE CRICKET CLUB, MEANWOOD ROAD**

Organised by InterACT Church and Community Partnership with support  
from Leeds Federated Housing, Garry Chappelow Fund and Leeds City  
Council Inner North Area Committee  
Contact Maureen: 07877 394 816



Leeds  
CITY COUNCIL

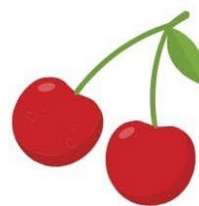


InterACT  
Church and Community Partnership

Charity (CID) number: 1171402



# BECKHILL



# FRUIT GROWING PROJECT

Come and help us grow lots of fruit in our community!

**Thu 16<sup>th</sup> Jul, 3-5pm**

Smoothie Bike Day

**Thu 23<sup>rd</sup> Jul, 10am-12**

Orchard Action Day: Willow weaving tree cages

**Tue 11<sup>th</sup> Aug, 6-8pm**

Workshop: Planting Around Fruit Trees with Pippa Chapman (booking required)

**Thu 29<sup>th</sup> Oct, 11am-1pm**

Apple Day

**Sat 5<sup>th</sup> Dec, 10am-12**

Orchard Action Day: Tree cages & planting

**Thu 18<sup>th</sup> Feb, 10am-12**

Pruning workshop



Beckhill Community Garden, LS7 2PP



[fruitworks.org.uk/beckhill](http://fruitworks.org.uk/beckhill)



**COMMUNITY**  
FUND

