



LEEDS

UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

PARTNERSHIP

Prayer Diary

Introduction

Welcome to the second Prayer Diary of the Leeds United Reformed Church Partnership, a group of six URCs and two Local Ecumenical Partnerships (LEPs) from across our vibrant city, enabled by a Ministry Team to further the churches' mission priorities in their diverse communities.

One of the ways the churches sought to get to know one another better after the formation of the Partnership in 2022 was through the use of a Prayer Diary, incorporating brief profiles of all the churches, so that we could pray about topics that were of particular concern for each of the churches. The first Diary was well received. As things have changed within the Partnership and our churches, the Steering Group felt that a new Diary would be a useful resource, so here it is!

In the following pages you will find prayers, including a Partnership Prayer, (p22), photos and details of Partnership activities over the last couple of years (p2-p4), a report of the Partnership Away Day in 2025 (p5-p7) and a vision from the Ministry Team as to how the Partnership could develop (p8), as well as brief descriptions of all the Partnership churches (p9-p17) and pen portraits of the members of our Ministry Team (p18-p21) – a wealth of material to strengthen the bonds which already exist between the churches and to inform our prayers.

Exactly how you use this Diary is entirely up to you but please display printed copies and / or circulate the electronic version so that as many members, friends and visitors to your church can become more familiar with the Partnership, its churches and its Ministry Team. We know that some churches like to pray for one church every Sunday for a month, whilst others pray for a different church each week. Please pray for each of our Ministry Team members as well as for the churches. Please also pray for the Partnership as a whole, that our closer co-operation will enable each member church to fulfill God's mission within its own community.

Leeds URC Partnership Steering Group

Looking back ...

What has happened within the Partnership since the last Prayer Diary?

Below is a summary of some of the events that have happened within the Partnership over the last couple of years.

Quiet Days

Two Quiet Days have been held at the Community of the Resurrection in Mirfield. The first, in April 2024, explored the topic of how we should now live in the light of the resurrection, whilst the second, in November 2025, was on the theme of *Be brave, go gently*. Both days included the opportunity for quiet reflection, time to explore the beautiful grounds, to share fellowship over lunch and to share worship in the chapel with members of the Community.



The United Reformed Church
Leeds URC Partnership

QUIET DAY

Join us for a day led by the Ministry Team on the theme: *Be brave, go gently*.

- A time for reflection and worship
- 2 course lunch and fellowship
- Opportunities to explore the beautiful grounds

📅 **Saturday 8 November**
10am-4pm

📍 Community of the Resurrection
Mirfield, WF14 0BN

💷 Pay as you feel

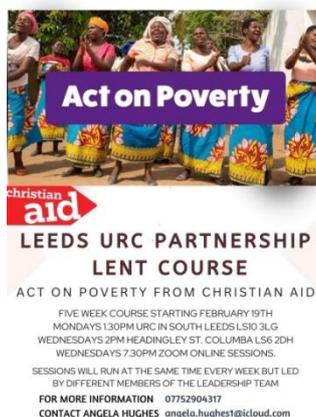
To book or get more information,
contact: sheana.dudley@standrews.cc
07460 813179
by 18 October



These two Quiet Days, as well as the previous one held at Parcevall Hall, were financed by the URC Education and Learning Committee's Discipleship Development Fund. As we have now received as many grants as we can from this fund, those attending the Day in 2025 were asked to contribute to a Partnership fund which will help to finance future Quiet Days.

Bible studies / reflections

The Ministry Team has organized and led a series each Lent and Advent. All have included the option to take part on Zoom or in person in two of our churches on different days.



Act on Poverty

christian aid

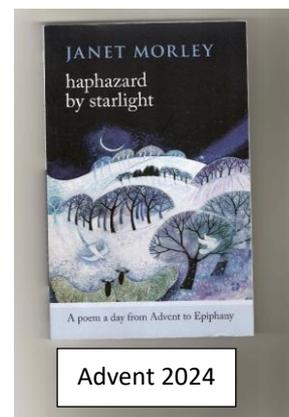
LEEDS URC PARTNERSHIP LENT COURSE

ACT ON POVERTY FROM CHRISTIAN AID

FIVE WEEK COURSE STARTING FEBRUARY 19TH
MONDAYS 1:30PM URC IN SOUTH LEEDS LS10 3LG
WEDNESDAYS 2PM HEADINGLEY ST. COLUMBA LS6 2DH
WEDNESDAYS 7:30PM ZOOM ONLINE SESSIONS.

SESSIONS WILL RUN AT THE SAME TIME EVERY WEEK BUT LED BY DIFFERENT MEMBERS OF THE LEADERSHIP TEAM

FOR MORE INFORMATION 07752904317
CONTACT ANGELA HUGHES angela.hughes1@icloud.com



JANET MORLEY

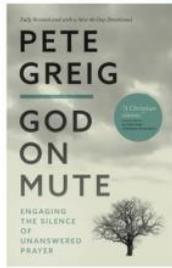
haphazard
by starlight

A poem a day from Advent to Epiphany

Advent 2024



LEEDS URC PARTNERSHIP LENT COURSE



A 5 week course exploring the themes of Holy Week and how prayer can help us process life's hardest questions.

Beginning on:

Tuesday 11 March, 10:30am, URC in South Leeds, Dewsbury Road, LS11 5HR

Tuesday 11 March, 7:00pm, St Edmund's Roundhay, Lidgett Park Road LS8 1JN

Wednesday 12 March, 7:30pm, Zoom, <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/701927749>

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

God in the Manger: Advent Gatherings



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

Beginning on:

Monday 1 December 11am, URC in South Leeds, LS10 3LG

Wednesday 3 December 7:30pm, on Zoom

Thursday 4 December 1:30pm, Stainbeck Church, LS7 2PP

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



A further course on the environment was led by Revd Dr Rosalind Selby in October 2024

LEEDS URC PARTNERSHIP BIBLE STUDIES

Reading the Bible in a Time of Environmental Crisis: Challenge, Action and Hope

Three different sessions at three different churches.



Each session starts at 2pm and includes refreshments.

Come along to 1, 2 or 3 sessions.

Monday 7 October: Wigton Moor URC, 82 High Ash Drive LS17 8RE

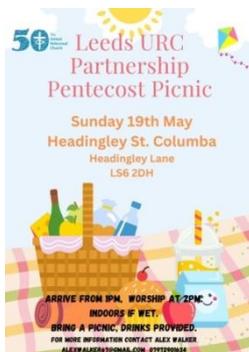
Monday 14 October: URC in South Leeds, Nesfield Road, LS10 3LG

Monday 21 October: Headingley St Columba URC, 70 Headingley Lane, LS6 2DH

For more information contact: revnicola.robinson@gmail.com

Worshipping together

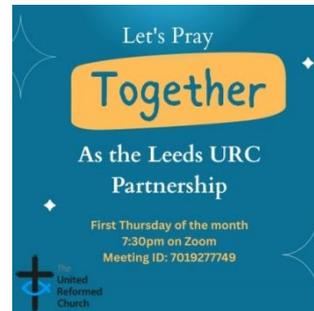
We have had a number of opportunities to worship together in person including pet blessing services, a Pentecost Picnic, a service to celebrate the 80th anniversary of Christian Aid and an Advent Carol service, as well as Zoom Blue Christmas services.



In addition to services organized for the whole Partnership, a number of churches have shared worship, particularly when roads are closed and it is impossible for members and / or preachers to physically get to their own building. Additionally, when a preacher has been unable to lead worship at short notice, it has been useful for a whole congregation or individual members to Zoom into Stainbeck's service which is always hybrid.

Partnership Prayers

A number of members from different Partnership churches have joined together monthly for Partnership Prayers, a short time to pray together by reading the Bible and sharing the joys and challenges in our lives, churches, communities and world.



First Aid Training



An excellent First Aid training course in April 2025 was attended by members from a number of our churches.

Additional Stipendiary Minister for the Ministry Team

On 18th January 2026 the Partnership issued a call to Edward Lyne, an ordinand, to serve as a Stipendiary Minister within the Partnership Ministry Team and the call was accepted. Ed will be ordained and inducted into the Team after he completes his studies in the summer. We look forward to working with him.

Administrator

The Partnership Steering Group is seeking funding to recruit a Partnership Administrator to free up the Ministry Team for mission,

Logo

A new logo has been developed for the Partnership, as used on the cover of this [Diary](#).

Partnership Christmas Tree

All eight churches contributed decorations depicting the gifts of their church which were used to decorate a Partnership tree at St Andrew's Christmas Tree Festival.



Leeds URC Partnership Away Day



On Saturday 10 May 2025, people from across our Leeds URC Partnership churches came together for an Away Day. This was part of a review of the Partnership three years after it officially came into being on 7 May 2022, when eight churches were inaugurated into the Partnership and members of the Ministry Team were inducted into it in a special service

From the discussions which took place, the following priorities were identified:

1. Partnership Worship services (once/twice a year) and non-worship opportunities to celebrate together
2. Quarterly Diary from the Ministry Team including worship and other events
3. Opportunities for Leeds young people to connect with each other regularly
4. Greater practical co-operation eg: designing and printing posters
5. Freeing up Elders for mission by centralising admin, treasurer, youth work roles
6. Worship opportunities outside Sunday morning
7. Encouraging more people to explore leading worship

The Ministry Team looked at these priorities at our bi-monthly meetings.

Worship

We have planned An Advent Carol Service to prepare the way for Christmas 2025. Also, a 'Pentecost Praise' celebration in 2026.

It would be good to publicise more widely the many worship and non-worship activities already planned in our Partnership churches.

Before we embark on committing resources to new events it would be helpful to assess which of the existing events are popular and valued.

This links with the common theme across these priorities about needing to offer a variety of types of communication and publicity across the Partnership. (See below)

It is important to determine the level and type of interest in encouraging more people to explore leading worship. One way forward might be to offer the option for interested people to shadow one of the Ministry team in preparing and leading worship. They could then be encouraged to share in leading one or more sections of an act of worship.

Young People

- We would like to encourage our young people to take advantage of events held by the Yorkshire Synod or national church. It would be a good idea to explore offering our young people funding to support travel expenses.
- Also, we should encourage churches to see whether, individually or collectively, they could make use of the Synod's Wilderness project.
- Individual churches need to reflect on whether working with young people is something they are genuinely called to as part of their mission, or whether God is calling them to support other churches in the URC Partnership or locally ecumenically.

Communication

It is important to remember that we all like to receive our information in different ways from phone calls and printed word to all manner of social media. It is easy to forget this when sharing updates. A simple email (which is so easy for some of us) doesn't work for everyone. There needs to be an awareness of this by our Church Elders so that news can be shared more effectively. Perhaps someone should be responsible for disseminating updates - the Church Secretary or a nominated Elder/member? Also a pastoral task for Elders who know their people? If there are issues with printing let us know.

Ongoing feedback is also helpful for the Ministry Team.

This is an on-going issue not just for the Ministry Team but for all of us. Reflecting with a few others interested in this issue here are a few starting points:

- We will look at sharing news from the Steering Group in a newsletter format of some kind. Perhaps this could be suitable for inclusion in the magazines of those churches who produce one and on websites etc. But who will prepare it? It could be compiled from the minutes. It need only be key points
- We will share articles which are appropriate across the Partnership in our magazines - perhaps also on websites and Facebook pages. The Ministry Team will offer a Partnership Prayer each month to be used by us all. Could there also be a letter to go with this?
- We will make a real effort to all contribute to the Partnership Facebook page - remember you can view Facebook pages without joining. Even if you join there is NO NEED to spend hours scrolling around!
- We will try to look further ahead so that events and dates are known ahead of time and we will consider the possibility of a quarterly diary. This could be one of the tasks of an Administrator?

Administrator

There are many types of tasks across our Partnership churches which could help us facilitate better and more effective communication. The Partnership Steering Group has applied to our Synod's Mission Capacity Fund for a grant to employ a Part-time Administrator and is awaiting a decision.

An Administrator would enable the vision and mission of our churches to continue at a time when there are fewer Elders and members able to do this without technical and practical help. The tasks carried out by the Administrator will give renewed confidence and encouragement to the Elders and members and free them up for mission and ministry.

Vision from the Ministry Team

A reminder that the vision and opportunity of the Leeds URC Partnership is:

to enable each member church to fulfil God's vision and mission within its own local community, enabled by the Ministry Team. Although some activities may involve some or all of the member churches, many will be for churches in their own communities. Through the Partnership, the churches will continue to co-operate, encourage each other and make the best use of limited resources.

As a Ministry Team, we recognise our callings are intertwined with the need to continually discern, grow and follow where the Spirit is leading. We also realize as people of faith and for our churches, we are living in challenging times, from the ongoing effects of Covid to being disheartened by declining numbers at church services on a Sunday, the difficulty of maintaining buildings and ensuring compliancy etc. Yet, God is with us and within us, offering new missional opportunities in our churches, communities and world. Being part of a flourishing Partnership means we need to be open to new ways of sharing God's love and new patterns of ministry.

What would it mean to be a Ministry Team which effectively and faithfully serves across our churches, draws on all our gifts and skills?

A question which over the next few months requires prayer and honest and creative conversations as a Ministry Team, within our Steering Group and within our congregations.

Yours in peace,

Geoff Ellis, Angela Hughes, Tim Lowe, Nicola Robinson, Alex Walker
Leeds URC Partnership Ministry Team

Brief profiles of Leeds URC Partnership Churches

Prayer for the churches

Loving God, we thank you for the churches of the Partnership.
We praise you that you give to each congregation a variety and richness
which we often take for granted.

We thank you for each member, no matter their age or background,
and for the gifts they bring to the whole body of the Church.

Enable each of our churches to serve you well
in their own local community,
resourced by your Spirit, equipped to serve, active in neighbourhood care,
and eager to make everyone welcome
so that we may all share together the good news of Jesus Christ,
in whose name we pray. Amen

Beeston Hill United Free Church



Beeston HILL is an LEP in an inner city area of South Leeds.

We have good outreach and mission with our Coffee and Charity shop on a Friday. We also maintain our garden for the local community to use.

In our building we host several groups including Kidz Klub, Brownies, Guides and a Mums and Tots Group. On a Sunday afternoon another church uses our building for their service.

We celebrate the few young people we have and enjoy all they bring to our church.

We continue to be a welcoming church but acknowledge we are an ageing congregation

Having recently moved to the URC for Pastoral oversight we are looking forward to seeing what opportunities this could bring when a new Minister joins the Ministry Team and becomes our named minister.

Our prayer request would be for the future and any mission opportunities we could engage in. Also, pray for our young and older members. May we be able to support all their needs. Finally pray for our Partnership, Circuit and community.



Christ Church Halton



When our Methodist and URC LEP was established over 35 years ago in a suburban area of east Leeds, the constitution stated that we should normally have alternating Ministry. This changed in 2022 when the Yorkshire Synod and the Leeds North and East Methodist Circuit agreed to the appointment of a URC Minister to serve at Christ Church in partnership with a Methodist Minister for an initial period of three years. 2025 has seen a review of this agreement and also of Christ Church as an LEP.

The Synod and Circuit have agreed to continue the shared ministry. We are delighted that Revd Dr Nicola Robinson therefore remains our named Partnership Minister. Initially working alongside Revd Helen White until Helen moved on, then with Revd Edward Sakwe, until summer 2025, since September, she is working alongside Revd Janet Titterton. Janet also has pastoral charge of four other churches in the Circuit, including Colton and Crossgates Methodist Churches which Helen served, establishing close relations between us. Edward had different churches and we are pleased that we can now reinforce our links with Colton and Crossgates and also build closer links with Janet's other churches.

The LEP review, led by our Moderator, Revd Jamie Kissack and Revd David Goodall, Yorkshire West Methodist District Mission Enabler, helped us look at the life of the LEP and its mission. We were challenged to be more intentional in sharing our faith and offering worship which not only meets the needs of the current congregation but would allow those on the fringes to feel safe to ask deep questions. If we can attract new people, our ageing demographic may change. Conversations about worship continue in church meeting and with our Worship Committee and Church Council.

Our financial situation was also discussed in the review as, on current projections we could run out of money in a couple of years. Since the review we have had a mini stewardship campaign, looking at time, talents and financial giving. In addition, our new treasurer has instituted changes which should save us money but, with large increases in energy costs, the position is still not encouraging.

On a more positive note, although we have had a number of deaths this year, we recently brought two people into membership and expect a third in the near future. As one of the only community spaces in the area we are involved in outreach activities aimed at all members of the community including Messy Church, Guild which attracts members from other churches and none and our Saturday coffee morning, which has had to move into the hall because of increasing numbers. Recently, Nicola has deepened our relationship with the local primary school through sessions with each year group and the school are using our building for their concert.

Please join us in praying

- for Janet, Nicola and the church as we settle into this new ministry;
- for our relationship with the other Partnership churches and the Methodist churches in Janet's section;
- for a clear vision and plan for the future;
- for adequate financial and people resources to carry out our plan.

Headingley St Columba United Reformed Church



Headingley St Columba URC is a member of the Leeds URC Partnership group of churches. The church was built in 1966 and was formed in 1979, when St Columba's URC (formerly Cavendish Road Presbyterian Church) merged with Headingley Hill Congregational URC. Our named Minister is the Rev Dr Nicola Robinson, and we currently have 39 Members and 19 friends. We are a gathered community with people from the local area, other parts of Leeds and further afield including Wetherby and Beverley. The church buildings, situated on the A660 two miles northwest of the city centre near the main shopping centre of Headingley, consist of the Sanctuary, a range of large and small meeting rooms, a kitchen and a separate caretaker's lodge, with good on-site parking. Hiring these facilities to local organisations provides a valuable source of income. Headingley is a vibrant suburb with many restaurants, bars, sporting facilities, and other places of worship.

Sunday Morning Worship at 10.45am, including Holy Communion celebrated monthly, takes place in a spacious, modern Sanctuary with excellent acoustics. The music at these services is led by our accomplished organist. We are fortunate to possess both a fine three-manual pipe organ and a Steinway grand piano. Our worship is traditional, but we are open to other formats including café-style services. Several times each year, we share worship with West Park URC and the neighbouring Headingley Methodist Church.

We are an ageing, but willing congregation, with 6 Elders, including the Church Secretary and Church Treasurer. The number of worshippers continues to fall as we have sadly failed to add to our congregation in recent years and have only one child who regularly attends worship. The church's financial position is good, but the human resources required to run the church are worryingly limited. Working with Church members, and others, we intend to conduct a review to determine how best to approach the future. The day-to-day running of the church is entrusted to a Management Committee, and the building is assiduously maintained by our caretaker. The Guild meets monthly for lunch. We are members of Churches Together in Headingley. An important and longstanding part of our Mission is to support financially the URC Chaplaincy to the Leeds universities. We connect with children, through the local Women's Refuge and Salvation Army. We also provide much-needed financial support to the Rainbow Junction café at All Hallows Church in Burley and the Leeds North & West Foodbank. We play a full role within the Leeds URC Partnership: hosting events such as the popular Easter coffee morning and a service celebrating the 80th anniversary of Christian Aid.

We pray for:

Our church congregation as we seek to discern our future.

Our local community and in particular the work of the Leeds North and West Foodbank and the Rainbow Junction Café.

The Leeds URC Partnership churches and our various and varied activities.

St Andrew's Roundhay URC



St Andrew's is a large church situated in the quiet suburb of Roundhay in north Leeds. The community is diverse, made up of people from many different ethnic and religious backgrounds. Excellent schools mean that there are many families in the area, but there is also a considerable number of elderly people living in sheltered housing and residential homes.

We are in a covenant relationship with the local Anglican and Methodist congregations and worship jointly several times a year, as well as sharing in Lent groups and other occasional joint bible study sessions.

The people of St Andrew's strive to serve the needs of local families through offering a range of uniformed groups, Mums and Toddlers, Messy Church, Family Fun Days and a Junior drama group. Our weekly Community Café has been a great success, drawing in many older members of the community as well as some young mums and their babies. It has been gratifying to find some café regulars appearing at Sunday morning worship too. The recently started Forget Me Not Dementia café has also proved to be a success, offering fellowship and activities for dementia sufferers and their carers. For the sporty members of the congregation we offer badminton and table tennis sessions and the drama group, RoCo, draws members from a wide area.

We are currently working to build a closer relationship with the groups that rent our rooms and include them in invitations to join in church activities. The Christmas Tree Festival, which has become a very popular annual event in recent years, has proved to be one successful means of drawing people in to join in decorating trees, sing carols and share in the fellowship.

Our worship was mainly traditional until a few years ago when café style worship was introduced as an experiment and now takes place regularly on the last Sunday of the month. The uniformed organisations find Parade services more appealing now that there is cake on offer!

A new monthly midweek service at 7.30pm on Wednesdays is trialling different styles of informal worship.

Challenges

- An ageing congregation means finding volunteers to run all our activities is becoming more difficult.
- Sunday morning has become less popular with families as a time to worship and finding a suitable weekday or Saturday slot for a family service is a challenge.
- The requirement to keep our Grade 2 listed building well maintained is expensive and time consuming and can be a distraction from our mission to serve the community.
- To encourage all our members to become more involved in joint partnership activities.

Please pray for:

- our minister and Elders as they work to discern God's call to us and determine our direction over the next few years
- the work of our dementia and community cafes
- our Partnership Ministry Team and steering group that our churches may be enabled to draw ever closer together

Stainbeck United Reformed Church



Dedicated in 1931, Stainbeck is ideally situated between Meanwood and Chapel Allerton, the only church within a mile radius. It is surrounded by mixed housing, including pockets of deprivation and there is a high level of engagement in the life of the community.

Our Church and Community Partnership, **InterACT**, a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) involving five local churches, is based at Stainbeck and continues to enable its wider community outreach and mission. It chairs the Anchor Community Network and is currently responsible for the Meanwood Food Pantry and a Menshed. Recent grant money awarded for community development has led to the Beckhill Community Garden managed by local residents and supported by the Church. At the edge of our car park, this attracts many local visitors to share in gardening, growing and harvesting the results while also enjoying the peace it offers.

Stainbeck is also a member of **THRIVE Leeds** (another CIO involving four churches) and this grouping currently enables our work with children and young people. MESSY Church fills the gap now that we no longer have the resources to run a regular Sunday Club at Morning Worship. A new addition is a modular unit (we call it 'The Cabin') based in our garden. It is hoped that this will provide a Community Hub for local young people. Linked to this some of our Thrive young leaders are currently involved in the URC Wilderness Project – building confidence as they share and develop their gifts.

Our congregation isn't large but two important places where our objectives, including those relating to the five threads of mission, come together, is at the weekly **Community Café** and the **Lunch Club**.

We continue to offer Hybrid Worship on Sunday mornings (via Zoom) and this is varied, informal and aspires to be inclusive. On Thursday evenings our prayer services offer a time to be still and reflect together. We may be small in number but the prayer life of the church underpins our life together. There are many local people who would call this "our church" despite rarely attending worship for they have experienced Stainbeck's care in the ups and downs of their lives.

As part of our practical preparation for the future we have now employed an administrator to look after the booking and compliance of our premises.

We continue to aim to be Christ in the Community, expressing the love of God in practical concern for others, welcoming and affirming all genders, classes, ages, faiths and abilities.

PRAYER CONCERNS

Please pray for our new youth initiatives and for our ongoing community work – always changing as the needs around us change. Of course we would like people to come and join us – of an age to actively participate – with ideas, vision and a degree of physical ability! But it is God's Church not ours and so please pray that we may be open to discern God's future for us.

www.stainbeckurc.org.uk

The United Reformed Church in South Leeds



The URC in South Leeds is a small but faithful community based in Belle Isle, LS11 but gathered from many places. It has a history of working with others having had, not too long ago, three churches worshipping and serving simultaneously. The church is now down to worshipping in one building whilst being in the process of selling the second. Some might see this as decline. The church sees this as an opportunity to do less but to do it better, focusing on what is needed in Belle Isle and not spreading ourselves too thin.

The church works, primarily, through Trinity Network. A project was set up over 50 years ago by the church charity, South Leeds Team Ministry. The project is a day center for the elderly and vulnerable across the area, with over 60 people attending per week. Trinity Network serves hot meals, provides activities and entertainment and allows people the opportunity to socialise and remain part of the wider community. It is busy, employing six people including a minibus driver, but it is expensive to maintain, and funding can be difficult because of its links with the church.

Elsewhere, we welcome a large number of young people through the three weeknights of uniformed organisations and host four parade services a year. The best attended is our Christingle service, which can often see 50 young people, from preschool to college, attending.

The church also works closely with Nesfield Lodge, the dementia home next door, and welcomes residents and staff regularly on a Sunday morning for worship. Once a month the church goes next door to provide an appropriate service for and with the residents.

Moving forward the church is focusing on a renewed sense of belonging within the area of Belle Isle, working with community partners like the local Coop funeral directors and with local schools as we aim to bring the peace and love of Jesus to a diverse and often troubled part of our brilliant city.

We ask our Partnership friends to pray for the following:

- For Trinity Network. Its members and staff and for the work being done to guarantee its future.
- For the members of the church who are looking for new mission within it as Dewsbury Road is sold and the long standing and good work done there comes to an end.
- For the church's relationship with Nesfield Lodge and other dementia care needs as the church strives to be welcoming and safe for all.



West Park United Reformed Church, Leeds



Where are we?

West Park is a residential area in North Leeds, approximately 4 miles out of the city centre. The church building is on Spen Lane and we also own the adjacent building used by a children's nursery and the Manse nearby.

Who are we?

A small, friendly, welcoming, and inclusive congregation. We are part of Abbey Churches Together, gathering alongside the local Anglican and Roman Catholic congregations for Christian Unity and Good Friday Witness. We are generous givers, supporting Christian Aid, the Leprosy Mission and local Christian charities including the Northwest Leeds Food Bank, Leeds Faith in Schools, Kidz Klub Leeds, Caring for Life (Craghouse Farm), and St. George's Crypt

What goes on at WPURC?

- Sunday morning worship is fairly traditional with a variety of leaders, usually following the lectionary, with Holy Communion monthly. We use a hymnal sound system for our music. Refreshments are provided after the service, in a time of fellowship.
- Monthly Saturday Café – a community drop-in. Church-led with a welcome for everyone.
- Regular community groups – the building is in use daily midweek. Users include Beavers, Cubs and Scout Groups, Gamblers Anonymous, Fitness Classes, YAMSEN (Yorkshire Association for Music and Special Educational Needs), Scottish Country Dancing and music groups.

What would we like prayer for?

- How best to build on the relationships we have with community users – outreach.
- The ongoing discussions working together more closely with Headingley St Columba URC.
- The pastoral needs of all the congregation.

Wigton Moor United Reformed Church



The church is situated amidst several estates of private housing in North Leeds and people of numerous different faiths are resident in the area. It is very much a local church with few people travelling any distance to attend worship or activities. Our ministry both on Sunday and during the week is very much geared to older people and we aim to be a dementia friendly church. Many of our Jewish neighbours join us during the week when fun, fitness and friendship form the basis of our activities. There is a Community Coffee Stop one afternoon and also two chair based exercise classes and a dance exercise class for everyone's enjoyment. All of these activities have a very strong social element as well as providing exercise in a suitable form for those whose mobility is limited. A recent addition to the activities is a knit and natter group. The new kitchen, installed in recent years, is proving to be a great asset for refreshments after church and activities as well as for special events such as the VE Day 80th anniversary celebrations (above).

As a church we recognise that our faith must be at the heart of all we do.

What does the Lord require of us? "To act justly, to love mercy and to walk humbly with our God" (Micah 6:8)

We pray that we will

- *Become a strong worshipping community which acting as Christ's body in the world can show the love of God to our local community through active service, sharing faith in word and deed and which will attract others to join us in worship.*
- *Be enabled to continue to increase our involvement in the local community showing the love of Christ to those around us and thereby helping to develop community cohesion and encouraging neighbours to get to know each other.*
- *Be able to expand our provision, particularly for elderly people amongst whom loneliness is common, to come together for activities and friendship.*
- *By working together with the other churches of the Leeds URC Partnership and ecumenical partners help to spread the good news of God's Kingdom across the city.*



Leeds URC Partnership Ministry Team



Prayer for the Ministry Team

Ever-living God, we ask your blessing on Alex, Angela, Geoff, Nicola, Tim and Ed each of whom has been called to serve you through the Partnership Ministry Team.

We give you thanks for their different skills and abilities and willingness to work together as a team.

Grant to each vision and discernment.
May they have a daily sense of your guidance and living knowledge of your presence with them even when their work is challenging.

Fill them with patience, peace and joy in their work, knowing that they do your will. Amen

Revd Geoff Ellis



We settled in Leeds over 48 years. Our family now includes our two daughters, sons-in-law, and grandchildren in Leeds and Nottingham.

I've had a variety of ecumenical and theological experiences. I was called to Eldership in St Andrew's Roundhay in the 1990's. Later I became a nationally accredited lay preacher. Then came the call to ministry and I studied on the Faith in Living course at Luther King House, Manchester. This led to ordination and induction as a Non-Stipendiary Minister beginning at Beeston Hill United Free Church, followed by Headingley St Columba URC, and then West Park URC Leeds. Since my induction into the Partnership Ministry Team in 2022 I value being available to serve all the URC congregations in Leeds.

Experience in business administration as a Company Director and 12 years as an MHA Chaplain in Hunslet has helped me in my ministry. I value the Center for Action and Contemplation's daily meditations and use the resources of the Northumbria Community and Celtic Daily Prayer. In this spirituality there is a focus on being available and vulnerable. Daily prayer and depending on God-given resources enable me to function and respond to ever changing needs. There continues to be the challenge to respond to the question: 'How then shall we now live?' My response is to encourage closer working together as we explore what it means to live in the light of the resurrection and support our church members in their discipleship and local mission.

Revd Angela Hughes



Born in St Albans, I grew up in North London, where I was educated in a Roman Catholic convent and attended a Baptist Church. It was here that I met and married a Welsh Baptist whose new job meant a move North. Settling in Leeds our family now consider Yorkshire their home and all live in or within easy reach of the city. We became founder members of Wigton Moor Congregational Church and active in its life and work. Wigton Moor (by then United Reformed) was my sending church where I was ordained as a self-supporting Minister in 1997.

My original remit as a 'District Minister' enabled me to explore the possibilities of Interim Ministry: fixed-term appointments to explore the local context and look for new ways of sharing God's love in word and action. I discovered the joys of 'networking' and what I have come to call 'community ministry' which led me to Stainbeck URC, where we set up an ecumenical partnership with church and community. In 2005 I was called and inducted as Pastoral Minister to Stainbeck Church. These were fulfilling and challenging years as community involvement became part and parcel of our everyday life.

I enjoy networking and exploring new ways of working beyond our church building. I have pastorally supported and walked with many when times have been hard – all ages and diverse situations. Above all I want others, all others – no exceptions - to know the peace and love of Jesus which sustains and empowers me through the ups and downs of our human life.

In 2022 I stepped back from this ministry but remain an active partner in the Ministry Team. I hope to serve the Partnership as long as I am able and useful – and ask for your prayers

- 1) for the team as we explore the future together
- 2) and for myself that I may be wise in what to take up and what to lay down.

Revd Tim Lowe



I'm very lucky to work alongside four wonderful colleagues in the heart of beautiful Yorkshire. It's such a blessing to be part of our eight church Partnership, especially as we grow into the future and look forward to adding another member to our Ministry Team. The last three and a half years have been exciting. I've particularly loved our Partnership quiet days and opportunities we have during Lent and Advent to come together.

For those who don't know much about me, I grew up in Southend-on-Sea, studied Graphic Design at Portsmouth Polytechnic, before feeling a call to ministry in 1993 whilst volunteering at the URC's National Youth Resources Centre at Yardley Hastings.

I was ordained in 1998 and have served as minister to churches in Hastings, Stafford and Coventry before moving to Leeds. In the past I have served the wider church on the national committees for Children's and Youth Work, Pilots, and Communications. I have been Chaplain to FURY Assembly and later URC Youth Executive. I've been a regular writer for Roots worship and learning resource for twenty five years. I have an interest in all kinds of visual arts.

In the future I'd like to explore using visual arts more in worship and activities across our churches. I would also like to spend more time across all our churches. I would ask that you pray for the Ministry Team to be released from some of our meetings and administrative tasks, to free us up to be more creative.

Revd Dr Nicola Robinson



Alongside being a minister, I am a daughter, a sister, an auntie, a friend. One of the great joys of my life is being an Auntie to 2 nephews and 2 nieces. I am also a proud companion to Maisie, my 10-year-old cockapoo.

I was ordained and inducted into the Leeds URC Partnership in September 2022. My calling as a minister is rooted in a faith that actively follows the Way of Jesus. A calling characterised by flexibility and openness to new possibilities, which offers welcome and hospitality to all, highlighting an evolving understanding of God's inclusive love of all. In practical terms, this means actively seeking, creating and nurturing relationships in order to be the church in a particular area.

The promises I made at my ordination mean I take my calling to serve the wider denomination seriously and joyfully. As such, I place importance on playing an active role in Synod, denominational and ecumenical settings. I am the Convenor of our Synod's Green Apostles group. In 2026, I will serve as Chaplain to the URC Youth Moderator. I am also part of the ecumenical planning group for Pride Church Leeds which holds a service and gathering for our LGBTQ+ Christian community once a month.

My hope and prayer for the Leeds URC Partnership going forward is that we can be flexible, adaptable and open to following where the Spirit is leading. And this means a Ministry Team which draws on all our gifts and skills across our churches.

My favourite way to refresh and relax is to walk with Maisie: in the woods, by the sea, through the park. I am an avid reader, knitter and Lego builder (though I haven't quite mastered the art of being able to do all three at the same time!) I also enjoy baking, watching Star Trek, taking photographs and trying my best at Pilates. I treasure holidays with my family and friends.

Mr Alex Walker



I have lived in Leeds since 2004. For many years I was heavily involved at Wigton Moor, serving as Church Secretary over two periods and running their youth clubs. I was called to serve the URC in South Leeds as interim moderator and later as their lay leader. I was inducted into the role of Elder in Local Leadership in 2021. I was inducted into the Ministry Team in 2022 when the Leeds URC Partnership was formed.

I like to think that most of the things I do are done in a friendly and accessible manner, whether that be worship, meetings or pastoral care. I try not to be someone who needs to be in charge, but I'm happy to take the lead when needed.

Outside of church I work as Head of Faculty for Creative and Performing Arts in a secondary school in Kirklees. I trained as a music teacher and try to use my developed professional skills in church as best I can. This extends to compliance and legislation as well as teaching, planning and delivery.

The role of Elder in Local Leadership is one that sometimes needs explaining, but in reality it walks alongside traditionally ordained forms of ministry easily. I am not treated like a junior member of the Team in any way. I am also involved in a wider synod role, serving on property committee.

I am married and have a son, born in 2012 and in my spare time play guitar and sing in a rock band playing 90s pop hits.

I am sure God is calling Leeds into an age of new ways of thinking, new ways of doing and new ways of being God in our communities and I am excited to take this journey with you.

Our new Minister

Ed Lyne



My call to the ministry of Word and Sacrament is primarily based on a desire to understand the different contexts of people in the Church and the wider community.

I am very passionate about pastoral care, always willing to listen to people's stories both inside and outside the partnership, aiming to establish a relationship of trust.

My call as part of the Church community is to lead regular worship, Bible study and spiritual reflection, revealing the love of God but also the challenges that we face together. I intend to work with Elders, Church members and wider Partnership groups to identify these challenges and try to solve them together.

My interpretation of mission is to identify the needs within the local area and to discern how we as a Partnership may offer help in building the Kingdom of God. I've recently begun a study of Christian-Muslim dialogue as a means of developing community connections.

Another passion of mine is to visit different Pubs within the community and to establish friendships and relationships with local people. In these conversations I aim to demonstrate the love of Jesus while also acknowledging the challenges that people of faith also face in the presence of God and religion.

In my personal life, I am a member of a Pub Pool team and enjoy playing Darts and Snooker. Cricket is my favourite sport to watch along with Football. I really like amateur dramatics and have recently been in productions of King Lear and The Wind in the willows.

I am a positive person who always tries to have a glass half full outlook, seeking happiness and joy but also the need to be sad at times.

I'm excited to be part of the Ministry Team and the Partnership and can't wait to get going together!

Partnership Prayer

Loving God,
thank you for bringing us together
from across our vibrant city.

We come together as
the rich tapestry
that is the Leeds United Reformed Church Partnership.

A rich tapestry which brings together
so many wonderful threads
of congregations
of individuals
of communities
of opportunities and challenges.

Weaving Spirit,
as we look at the tapestry
we rejoice and are glad
in all we can do together:
worshipping and praying in various ways
nurturing each other's faith in Bible studies and Quiet Days
sharing in coffee mornings and fellowship
supporting each congregation's mission
engaging in justice for people and planet
and more.

Weaving Spirit,
you who love us so utterly and unconditionally,
help us to trust your skill;
to entrust you with the future
and to follow your inspiring
as we work with you following Jesus
and make God's kin-dom a reality
in our lives and world.
In Jesus name, we pray.
Amen.