



**CROSSGATES
METHODIST CHURCH
August 2020
Newsletter**

MINISTER: Rev Helen White
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As I write, I've just been preparing worship for this Sunday, based on parables of Jesus, 'The kingdom of heaven is like...' Apart from wondering how we might complete the sentence (which you'll have heard more of on Sunday if you joined Zoom worship, or used the Worship at Home sheet), I started thinking about this statement, 'The church is like...'

How would you finish that sentence? It would be nice to think the church is like the kingdom of God, but if we're being honest, we fall far short. The church is like... how would you have completed that sentence if I had asked you four months ago? How would you complete it now? And I wonder how you'd like that sentence to be completed as we begin to move back into our buildings.

The church is like it was before lock down.

The church is like rocks, shaped and eroded by wind and rain, but still standing firm.

The church is like a family - but a physically distanced family.

The church is like an empty space.

And does it change anything if I add 2 words: The church **of God** is like...

I look forward to hearing your suggestions for completing the sentence.

Blessings
Helen

Service Options

If there are any people or situations you would like included in the prayers on Zoom worship, please let me know by Saturday morning, (having got permission from the individual to be named in our prayers).

Please do contact me if you would like to receive details of worship via email or would like to have printed worship sheets delivered.

Blessings, **Helen**

An Update on Opening our Church

We are still working behind the scenes to get to a position where we can reopen church, first for worship and then other activities. It's a long process that we are taking step by step and we'll update everyone soon on what's going to happen.

The Church Council will be fixing a date to meet shortly so they can look at the risk assessments and decide when, as managing trustees, they want to re-open the building(s), and how. If you are a member of the Church Council Tracy Dick will be in touch shortly with details.

FREE phone service to hear prayers and news from the Methodist Church has been launched.

Listen to a prayer: 0808 281 2514

Listen to news: 0808 281 2478

Content is updated weekly on Thursday evening

Thank you: to everyone who is continuing to contribute towards the running costs of our Church. This is making a real difference to our financial situation. If you would like to send in your collection, cheques can be sent through the post to the Church's address or to Linda Booth. Please include at least one of your offertory envelopes so if you are a 'gift aider' this can continue to be claimed.

SPONSORED WALK

Would you please sponsor Bill Ineson or John Best as they attempt a circular walk of around 11 miles between Great and Little Ouseburn, Marton cum Grafton and Whixley in North Yorkshire. All money raised will go to the **Tranquility Court Social Fund**. *Remember walking longer distances becomes harder with age and Bill and John are in their 80's!!*

Leeds South & East Foodbank

helping local people in crisis

Our Church contributed 5 crates of food/toiletries in July. If you would like to donate, please contact John Best email jvbest39@hotmail.com who will gladly collect. Thank you

THE TRUSSELL TRUST: The Food Banks in our network rely on donations from their local communities. We are expecting to see more people needing to use food banks over the coming weeks as a result of the pandemic and if you are able to support the food bank with either by donating food, offering financial support or volunteering we would really encourage you to get involved.

OXFAM: Although the UK is the 7th richest country in the world many people struggle to afford food.

THE GUARDIAN: Millions of people in the UK will need food in the following days food charities are warning, as the coronavirus outbreak takes hold.

SUSTAIN: An estimated 8.4 million people in the UK struggle to get enough to eat. This includes many households with people in work, families with children, as well as older, disabled and BAME people.

THE RED CROSS: We are supporting the most vulnerable people by delivering food and medicine.

UNICEF: One in three children are now living in poverty in the UK. UNICEF estimate that 2.5 million British children now live in food insecure households.

Romans 12 v 12-13 "Let hope keep you joyful, in trouble stand firm; persist in prayer. Contribute to the needs of God's people, and practice hospitality."

Vice-President of the Methodist Conference



Barbara Easton's vocation has been the world of education. Before becoming Connexional Director of Education in 2014 she was an RE teacher, inclusion and interfaith specialist and secondary head-teacher in the West Midlands. She now leads the Methodist Academies and Schools Trust, committed to shaping our schools as diverse communities of empowerment and transformation in their work at the margins of the church.

On hearing of her election Barbara said: "I am delighted and deeply honoured to have been called to serve the Methodist people as Vice-President of the Conference. Thank you to all those who have walked with me on the journey – I am grateful for your prayers. I am aware that I will take on the vice-presidency at a time which is both challenging and exciting for our church, and I promise to work faithfully and thoughtfully as we move into this new future."

Barbara is a local preacher and has regularly volunteered at 3Generate and Greenbelt. Through international Methodist education and her upcoming role for global Methodist Women, she seeks for Methodism to have an impact greater than the sum of its parts.

The role of President of the Methodist Conference is reserved for presbyters and that of Vice-President for lay people or deacons.

Some of us at Cross Gates will remember Barbara as Barbara Kimsey. She lived in Cross Gates in the 1970s, worshipped regularly at our Church and was a member of the vibrant youth club of the time. Linda Booth sent Barbara a card to congratulate her and received a nice message back saying she was delighted to receive it and to know that people at Cross Gates remember her.

Reviewing Statues in Leeds

Following issues raised by the Black Lives Matter movement, Leeds City Council are reviewing the statues in Leeds to see how they can better represent the diversity of our city. The independent review will:

- Look at the way the city has celebrated individuals through statues
- Review all statues or representations of individuals in public places (including any plaques or information boards)
- Consult with a range of individuals and organisations on their views
- Prepare a report with recommendations for future actions (expected to be published in September 2020)

The review will make recommendations to the council and any other owners of the statues. It is not able to make any decisions about removing statues.

Have your say – you can give your views on any aspect of public art in Leeds. You might want to think about the questions below. Are there any statues that:

- You consider of particular importance to the city?
- You object to, because of who the individual is, how they are represented or the location of the statue?
- Could have plaques added or improved, and if so how?
- Are there any individuals or groups that are absent?
- How do you think Leeds can best represent significant individuals and how should they be selected?

Write with your views to creativecity@leeds.gov.uk The consultation is open until 31st July. More information (and a list of relevant artworks in public places) is available at www.leeds.gov.uk

New Statues in Leeds

Two huge statues, standing at approximately nine feet tall will be added to The Majestic as part of the massive refurbishment. They represent 'music and drama' and have been crafted by internationally acclaimed master sculptor Andrew Sinclair. Once complete, The Majestic will become the new national headquarters of Channel 4, while several other businesses and companies will also call it their home.



ODE TO A RAMBLER

I set out with determined will, up front with all the rest,
They say "there's a bit of a hill", it's more like Everest!!!
As we journey on together, warm booted and head capped.

O'er hill and dale we saunter on, I try to keep a pace
But where has all the sunshine gone? The rain drops sting my face.
Oh what bliss when we stop for tea in some green field or glade,
I watch a busy, buzzing bee my sandwiches invade.

I love to see a cattle herd if they are far away,
I think they know that I am scared - my 'shoo' they don't obey.
O'er gate and stile, thro' hole in wall I wish my legs were thin.

There is no danger that I'll fall, I find that I'm wedged in!

I Feel a blister on my toe, out comes the First Aid kit,

Once more I am ready to go, there is no time to sit.

But how else will we see the hills and dales, and rivers too,
Old churches, halls and flour mills to name but just a few
Of wondrous sights we see each day in woods, by riverside,
Wild plovers all with colours gay here I would love to 'bide',
We spend an hour on riverbank, there is so much to view.

Mallard, coot and bulrush lank, and waterlily too.

The peace and quiet is wonderful! There's nothing quite so good.

Even the keen-eyed, fit young bull and pigeons in the wood.

Stress and strain fly off with the wind, pure thoughts is all we feel.

No problems now invade our mind, this is here - this is real!

Free to all who love open space, walking in all weather,

Away from the city and rat race, with good friends altogether.

*(Written in the 1990's by Betty Charlott - former member of the
Church Rambling Club)*

**Litany by Past President the Revd Michaela Youngson,
Chair of the London District**

We thought we knew how the world was meant to be.
Day followed night, every week had a Sunday
and that was the day for church.

How can we sing the Lord's song in a strange land?

We thought we knew how the world was meant to be.
We made our plans, held our meetings,
kept the roof on the church and the show on the road.

How can we sing the Lord's song in a strange land?

We thought we knew how the world was meant to be.
We would see colleagues, friends and loved ones again,
and we would embrace, laugh and share stories as we always have.

How can we sing the Lord's song in a strange land?

And now we know something new.
We know that the world is not ours to control,
and that our plans are confounded by the smallest microbe.

God is teaching us a new song, for a new land.

And now we know something new.
We know that church is not committees, agendas and buildings,
it is us, in homes, streets, hospitals throughout the world.

God is teaching us a new song, for a new land.

And now we know something new.
We only have today with those we love, today is the day
to say 'I love you', to mend an argument, to hold on tight.

God is teaching us a new song, for a new land.

***“God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in
trouble. Therefore, we will not fear, though the earth give
way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea...”***

Psalm 46

An Update from Christian Aid

Last year, over 45 million people were forced from their homes by conflict and violence. Families who have suffered so much need help now more than ever to face the deadly threat of coronavirus. Families who have fled conflict and hunger are now living in crowded camps where social distancing is impossible. In these places there is limited access to medical care, clean water or enough food, making people extremely vulnerable to coronavirus.

Christian Aid has joined the Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC) to raise urgent funds for communities living in extreme poverty and conflict in the midst of the coronavirus pandemic.

They are already responding to the Covid-19 outbreak by delivering life-saving information and hygiene support, personal protective equipment and food packages to communities in need.

Newsletter: Please email contributions for the Newsletter to Tracy Dick tracyldick@icloud.com Deadlines coming up: 24th August, 17th September.

Thank you: Muriel Horsbrough and family wish to thank you all for your prayers, kind thoughts and cards at this sad time.

Congratulations to: Katie Gledhill (Beryl's Granddaughter) on gaining a 1st class Honours Degree in Geology at Edinburgh University.

Please remember in your thoughts and prayers: All those people in our prayer book and those we know who are unwell, in hospital, in Nursing Homes, going for tests at Hospital, recently bereaved and who find this time of year particularly difficult.

CROSS GATES METHODIST CHURCH MISSION STATEMENT

We are a group of people who are seeking to celebrate and share God's love for all.

Through Worship, Witness and Service in the Community we aim to follow Christ's example of open arms, hearts, minds and doors

Cross Gates Methodist Church, Austhorpe Road, Cross Gates, Leeds, LS15 8QR