

CROSSGATES METHODIST CHURCH



February Newsletter 2020

MINISTER: Rev Helen White
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Ordinary Time

How do you feel about this time of year? A breathing space after Christmas? A long dark haul until the days lengthen and the first signs of spring can be spotted?

I don't usually think of January and February as my favourite time of year, but this year I am glad of the pause after New Year before Lent starts. We have a few weeks of what are known as Ordinary Time in the Church calendar. I think we need those ordinary times, breathing spaces, between festivals and special occasions. It can be a time for planning and preparation for the next special season. But it can also be time to appreciate the ordinary things of life - beans on toast followed by fruit or yoghurt, instead of turkey and all the trimmings followed by Christmas pudding and custard. Water or squash instead of wine or sparkling fruit juice drinks. Yes, the house will look a little bare now the decorations and Christmas cards are down. But I can see again those familiar items given by friends, or mementoes of holidays or times away. Vacuuming and dusting are easier with fewer obstacles in the way.

Is it also an opportunity to spend time quietly with God, without the distractions of Christmas or Easter or other festivals, when holidays are a distance away? Perhaps a time to pick up a new pattern of prayer, or Bible reading. Choose a Gospel to read this year, or challenge yourself with a book in the Bible you've never, or rarely read. How will you make the most of this ordinary time?

May you know God with you in the ordinariness of everyday. **Helen**

**'God in Love Unites us'- The Methodist Report of the
Marriage and Relationship Task Group 2019
Further conversations around the circuit.**

A report came to Methodist Conference in June 2019 looking at marriage and relationships in the Methodist Church. Across the Circuit there are opportunities to have conversations with others about various aspects of the report. All are welcome to attend these. Dates, times and venues below. Copies of the report are available for anyone interested in reading it. Please ask one of the Stewards if you can't find one.

Session 1 – Sex, gender & sexuality

A choice of venue, date & time:

Thursday 30th January - 7.30-9pm – Roscoe Methodist Church

Thursday 6th February - 1.00-2.30pm - Lidgett Park Methodist Church

Thursday 6th February - 7.30-9pm – Colton Methodist Church

Session 2 – Christian Marriage

A choice of venue, date & time:

Wednesday 12th February – 1 -2.30pm Colton Methodist Church

Thursday 13th February – 7.30pm -9pm - Lidgett Park Methodist Church

Thursday 27th February – 7.30pm -9pm - Roscoe Methodist Church

Session 3 – Next steps in the Methodist Church

A choice of venue, date & time:

Wednesday 26th February – 1 -2.30pm – Newbourne Methodist Church

Thursday 5th March - 7.30-9pm – Colton Methodist Church

Wednesday 11th March – 7.30-9pm – Chapel Allerton

PLEASE BRING YOUR BIBLE!

Services at Cross Gates at 10:30 in February

2nd Rev'd Helen White

9th Mr David Laycock

16th Mrs H Featherstone

23rd Professor Peter Howdle

Communion Services in February

Sun 2nd 10:30am Church

Tues 4th 10:45am Tranquility Court – All welcome

I would like to say thank you to Cynthia best, Keith Westbrooke and Georgina Cressey for kindly offering to join the Communion Team. This has made life so much easier and is greatly appreciated by the whole Team. *Carol Smith*

Tranquility Court – Events in the residents lounge – All Welcome

Tuesday 11th February, 2pm – entertainment by Martin Hewitt

World Day of Prayer

This year's World Day of Prayer (which used to be called Women's World Day of Prayer) is to be held on Friday 6th March at Christ Church, Halton. The service starts at 2pm. This year it has been written by the women of Zimbabwe. Do try to come along, everyone is welcome.

Coffee Mornings in February – All welcome

Sat 1st	10am	Table Top sale with coffee in room behind Church Hall
Mon 3rd	10am – 11.30am	Church Hall
Fri 7th	9.45am – 11.15am	Tranquility Court, complex behind Church
Mon 10th	10am – 11.30am	Church Hall
Mon 17th	10am – 11.30am	Church Hall
Mon 24th	10am – 11.30am	Church Hall

Church Flowers

Many thanks to those people who donated money for church flowers in December & January:

1st Dec – Geoff & Margaret

8th Dec – Caroline Carr, *remembering family*

15th Dec – Edna Waite *in memory of Gordon*

22nd Dec – Georgina Cressey, *thinking about family past & present*

29th Dec – Pauline Brown *in memory of husband David & son Mark*

5th & 12th Jan – Brenda Dean *in memory of Brian*

19th Jan – Alison Lambert

26th Jan – Avril & Philip Wright *in memory of their son*

Thank you to Jane, Cynthia, Pauline Jolley, Jean Hornshaw, Georgina, Barbara and Pauline Hudson for their beautiful arrangements. Many thanks to those who distribute the flowers to those who are ill or in need of our prayers at that time.

A Lent Challenge – Get Informed

The news is so full of doom and gloom that it is easy to lose sight of the wonderful generosity of millions of ordinary people who enable hundreds of charities to do amazing work at home and abroad. Recent magazines and newsletters from a number of charities have been placed in the Galilee. These include information and news from: **The Bible Society**,

Practical Action, Sabeel, Amnesty International, Christian Aid, Water Aid. P.S.C., Medicins Sans Frontiers, Amos Trust. Information can also be found online on the different charities' websites.

You are challenged to read and find out about one new charity each week in Lent.

The BENEFITS: Enhanced knowledge and maybe a changed view of the world!

LEEDS SOUTH & EAST FOOD BANK - (Trussell Trust)

Many thanks to the people donating food and toiletries to the Leeds South and East Food Bank Distribution Centre, which supplies 8 local food banks. The 'extra' contribution of goods before Christmas meant our contribution was 178.85 kg for December.

Our Church's contribution for 2019 was 1.127 tonnes.

A few details from the Food Bank October Newsletter :- From 1st to 31st December 2019 - Leeds South & East Food Banks **FED A TOTAL OF 585 PEOPLE**, 331 adults and 254 children.

Various reasons caused these folk to need help from the Food Bank – benefit delays and changes accounted for 253, debt 45, low income 253, sickness 3, homelessness 8 and other reasons.

What we especially need this month – coffee, tinned potatoes, tinned fish, long life milk, squash, juice.

Thank you for your continued support.

The Hub – Cancer Support Group

Monday 3rd February 11:00am – 1:00pm

Meet in the Wesley Room to hear more about the new Maggie's Centre from Amanda Procter, Centre Head. Maggie's provides free practical, emotional and social support to people with cancer and their family and friends. Maggie's programme of support has been shown to strengthen the physical and emotional wellbeing of people with cancer and their families and friends.

New visitors are always welcome.

Carols on the Church Steps

Thank you to the 40 plus people who braved the cold for an hour to sing carols on the Church steps. We were encouraged and rewarded by the many people who stopped to listen and those who made a donation in aid of Action for Children. Special thanks to Alan who led the singing and the

talented Arran who played the keyboard so well. It made a big difference. This was a wonderful way to bear witness to the people of Cross Gates at Christmas.

WYDAN (West Yorkshire Destitute Asylum Seekers Network)

Last year, during Lent your generous giving helped Kath Harwood to raise £766.50 for WYDAN. Those who volunteer to help during the 'Churches Together' Night Shelter know how important it is to try and maintain the Night Shelters all year round. As in previous years, Kath will be doing a 36 hour fast for the seven Wednesdays in Lent, starting on Ash Wednesday, 26th February. She will be grateful for any support to help WYDAN. Perhaps you would like to do a 24 hour fast on Ash Wednesday too?

East Leeds History and Archaeology Society - All Welcome

8:00pm at the Methodist Church Hall. Admission £2.00 incl refreshments.

Monday 27th January - Illustrated talk by George Gale 'Proud of Nenthead' - A history of the highest village in England

Monday 24th February - Illustrated talk by Chris Murphy 'Medieval Mafia'

Recycling

As we now have a green recycling bin provided by the council and collected free of charge we would encourage groups using the building to separate any items of rubbish that can be recycled and place them in the bins provided in the kitchen adjacent to the Wesley Room and in the Church Hall corridor. There are posters near these bins reminding you of what can be recycled. These are the same things that would go in your green bin at home. Thank you in anticipation for your help in this matter.

Thank you

Many thanks to everyone who contributed in any way to a very successful Christmas Fair. The amazing sum of £715.88 was raised which will be shared between Riding for the Disabled and Church funds. A special thank you to Lynda Robinson who takes the lead in organising this and the Table Top sales, which all contribute significantly to keeping our Church solvent.

Table Top Sale

Saturday

1st February

7th March

**Please come along and pick up a
bargain while supporting Church
funds**

Refreshments Available

Tea & Coffee

Breakfast Baps & Toast

*For further information please see Lynda Robinson in
the Wesley Room on a Sunday morning or phone*

07799 094472

Music and Lunch

Second Tuesday in the Month

Lunch @ 12:15

Music @ 13:15

11th February - Two Rivers Woodwind Ensemble

10th March - The Dalehurst Trio

Tickets £7

Including lunch which must be booked in advance

Tickets for concert only £3

Order tickets by phone from Kath Harwood

0113 260 3614

Thank you for your support

*All proceeds are donated to music based charities
and Church funds*

Tracy Dick has now taken over the Church Newsletter and is very grateful for all the help Trevor, Cynthia and Christine have given her so far.

Message for the Church from David Jackson, Joan Jackson's son

I know a lot of people will want to know how mum is doing, with the Church playing such a central part in mum's life. Mum was in hospital over Christmas and New Year, recovering from amongst other things, pneumonia. So as you can imagine she has been very poorly, however is brighter now I'm glad to say. Talking and eating a lot more, though is understandably still nervous with settling into a new routine and surroundings. Mum has got to the stage when she now needs nursing care, so on being discharged from hospital she moved into Sabourn Court Nursing Care Home, room 11 (first floor of new block) Oakwood Grove (off Oakwood Lane) LS8 2PA . Tel no 0113 2658398. At the moment mum is not well enough to make it to the Church but enjoys singing along with hymns when they are played from the Internet or on TV. Should anyone wish to be in touch or visit, the address is above. I am happy to give a lift over to visitors as I visit most days. People can contact me via e-mail: davidmartinjackson@hotmail.co.uk

Thanks: Jean Drake would like to thank everyone for the Church flowers, cards, enquiries and phone calls. Your good wishes for recovery from her knee operation are greatly appreciated

Prayers: 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