



CROSSGATES METHODIST CHURCH

April Newsletter 2020

MINISTER: Rev Helen White

A Roller Coaster

No, I'm not about to advocate a trip to Flamingo Land or Lightwater Valley, though if anyone fancies it, I'm more than willing to join you – when we're allowed. What I'm really thinking about is the roller coaster of emotions that lies ahead of us. The journey from Palm Sunday, through Maundy Thursday and Good Friday, to Easter Sunday takes us from excitement through puzzlement, solemnity and sorrow to the exultation, celebration and deep joy of Easter Day. Is it a journey you will be ready to make? As this is Matthew's year in the lectionary, you may want to read his account of the week in chapters 21 to 28.

It is not an easy journey to make; indeed there may be some years when our circumstances are such that the journey is too painful, too emotionally close to where we are. This year, the coming weeks are going to take us on a journey that we are likely to find difficult. It may feel as if Easter, the resurrection, is somewhat delayed, as corona virus keeps us at a physical distance from one another. At the moment it feels as if we're in for a long Lent.

This year, as in some other years, we may feel stuck on Good Friday, or in the waiting of Holy Saturday. Sometimes our own journey coincides with that of the church year and we are sad on Good Friday and joyful on Easter Day. At other times, we may find our Easter joy arrives at another point in the year – and I think that may well be the case this year. We may

be surprised by where and how God meets us – what glimpse of resurrection we might see, even in our current circumstances.

May you find your way with Jesus to the Cross, and beyond, to the joy of the resurrection, even if it doesn't fall on Easter Day. **Helen**

It is with sadness that we are following both advice from the Methodist Church and Government guidance and suspending worship services and all meetings at Cross Gates Methodist Church.

This means there will be no Sunday worship or Junior Church at Cross Gates until further notice. All church run activities have been suspended. We have set up a system to keep in contact with people during this situation. This is by email where possible and for others worship sheets are being posted. If you are not receiving information and would like to, then please let Helen or Barbara Lloyd or Tracy Dick know.

For those with internet access you can find more information, prayers and guidance at:

<https://www.methodist.org.uk/about-us/coronavirus-guidance/>

May we feel God's love surrounding and enfolding us at this time.

Blessings, Helen

Funding our Church

During this difficult period when all Church services are temporarily suspended we would respectfully request that you consider sending in your regular collection amount via cheque. **The vast majority of Church running costs remain unchanged** despite the fact that gatherings are not taking place. This means our bills still have to be paid. Cheques can be sent through the post to the Church's address or to Linda Booth, Woodland Road, Leeds, LS15 7DN.

If you are continuing to leave your house they can be popped through the letterbox (this is on the Church Hall side, towards Tranquillity Court and is part of the Pure Commodities office). Please include at least one of your offertory envelopes and mark the outer envelope for the attention of Linda Booth. For safety reasons please do not send cash. If you would like to discuss other ways your regular contribution can be made then please contact Amanda Brow or Alison Lambert. Their contact details are available from Helen.

A Prayer by the President of the Conference:

Loving God
If we are ill, strengthen us
If we are tired
Fortify our spirits
If we are anxious
Help us to consider the lilies of the field and the birds of the air.
Help us not to stockpile treasures from supermarkets in the barns of our larders!
Don't let fear cause us to overlook the needs of others more vulnerable than ourselves
Fix our eyes on your story
And our hearts on your grace
Help us always to hold fast to the good and see the good in others.
And remember there is just one world, one hope,
One everlasting love, with baskets of bread for everyone.
In Jesus we make our prayer,
The one who suffered, died and was raised to new life,
In whom we trust, these days and all days. Amen

Church Flowers

Many thanks to those people who donated money for church flowers in March:

8th March – Dorothy Weston in loving memory of Keith and David

15th March – Ray Winders in memory of dear wife Kath

22nd March – John Smith in memory of Dad

Thank you to Margaret Gifford, Pauline Jolley, Jane Macauley for their beautiful arrangements. Thank you also to Georgina Cressey who is providing some flowers in the Galilee. Many thanks to those who distribute the flowers to those who are ill or in need of our prayers at that time.

East Leeds History and Archaeology Society - All Welcome

The March, April and June meetings are cancelled and we hope to be back on 28th September with Josh Flint with an illustrated talk "Yorkshire Battles"

Kath Harwood's Lent Fast – Kath is continuing her Lent fast but hasn't been able to talk to people about sponsoring her. She is undertaking the challenge to raise funds for WYDAN (West Yorkshire Destitute Asylum Network). She has been totally honest – even on her birthday (!) so please don't forget to sponsor her despite everything that is going on at present.

Charitable Donations – There are many people who won't be able to donate to charities as they usually do because their income has been adversely affected by the Corona Virus situation. Charities have also had to cancel many of their fundraising events and initiatives and close their charity shops. Their ability to provide vital services may be compromised by lack of funds. We all have a great deal on our minds at the moment but please do remember the needs of charities at this time. If you can't contribute money then perhaps you could use this time at home to make craft items for sale later. Or have a good clear out and save your items to give to the charity shops once they re-open.

THE SIDE OF LEEDS THAT HAS MORE FOOD BANKS THAN CO-OPS

The above headline appeared early in March on the Evening Post website. In a sad indictment of today's society, more children than ever before are being fed from Food Banks, Susie Beever reports:-

A cold winters morning in February, and a warm hubbub feeling fills the room in a Methodist Church in Hunslet. In a corner a boy swings his legs from a chair while an elderly women reads a copy of Aladdin to him. Mothers are seen balancing toddlers on hips while a shelf in the corner is adorned with nappies and baby food. This is not a Play-Group, it is a Food Bank. "You should have been here last week" volunteer Margaret Woodward says, "the shelves were empty, it was so busy". Some 43% of children living in this part of Leeds are living in poverty, according to the latest Government data. The Leeds Central Constituency, which includes part of inner south Leeds, has the ninth

highest rate of child poverty in the country, when you exclude housing costs.

In the South and East part of Leeds the Food Bank has 10 distribution centres, with a further 2 opening in the spring. A quick calculation shows that there are more Food Banks than Co-op branches. The number has increased from just 2 in 2013, with staff saying the main reason for this is the introduction of Universal Credit the same year.

But the volunteers say that most people walking through the door are not collecting emergency food parcels simply because of delayed payments or benefit sanctions; in fact most are employed, but their low wages versus rising cost of living are leaving them, and more importantly their children, without food on the table.

The 4 year old's mother, Rachael, has 2 other children, her youngest being 2. Rachael, 30, claims she has been forced to shop lift nappies during the weeks she is unable to afford extras after paying her rent, bills and feeding the children. "I'm on universal credit" she says, adding "since I have been on it, it's just a nightmare. There is nothing left to buy the things I want for the kids. I'll admit to have shop-lifted nappies. I have been in Morrisons some weeks and put nappies in the trolley and realised I could not afford them, so sneak out with them. If it weren't for this place, there would be nowhere else to get food from. The kids think it is a supermarket".

Another mum, Emma, who is 30, says that her son does not know she comes here. "I feel really cheeky coming here when there are people worse off" she says, "but my son is my life, I always make sure he is fed and clothed before me". Emma has been unable to work since autumn due to severe illness but claims that even when in work as a cleaner she struggles to meet the financial demands of life.

Numbers calculated by the collection of vouchers at the Food Bank, reveal that 4,579 individual children from this small pocket of Yorkshire, have been fed from a Food Bank between April 1st 2019 until the beginning of February 2020. By the end of March, when the count is refreshed, this figure will have likely far surpassed the figure from the previous year when 5,125 children used the service.

FOOTNOTE: Cross Gates Methodist Church started a monthly collection of food/toiletries in November 2017. Our contribution in March was 91.74Kg. PTO to see how we can continue to help.

During this period when there are no meetings or services please remember the vital work of the foodbanks. It may be that you could send them a small monetary donation instead of bringing items to Church.

Donations can be made using the 'MY DONATE' button on their website www.leedssouhandeast.foodbank.org.uk

Or posted to: LEEDS SOUTH & EAST FOOD BANK
7 LENTON DRIVE, Parkside Industrial Estate LS11 5JW

Six Hopes for a More Just World

1. A just economy that enables the flourishing of all life.
2. A planet where the environment is renewed.
3. A society where the poorest and most marginalised are at the centre.
4. A society that welcomes the stranger.
5. A world which actively works for peace.
6. A politics characterised by listening, kindness and truthfulness.

Our trust in God provides us with hope for a more just world

ChapelFM are starting regular programming to ease isolation, Wednesday to Friday between 10 and 1 initially. They are hoping it will be broadcast on 94.6FM as well as on-line. They were testing the FM signal on Sunday afternoon and I could get it clearly. They think it will reach well across Seacroft and most of East Leeds, and possibly into south and west a bit.

Here's the weblink <https://www.chapelfm.co.uk/elfm-player/>

In a world where you can be anything, BE KIND

'And People Stayed Home' by Kathleen O'Meara, written in 1869

And people stayed home
and read books and listened
and rested and exercised
and made art and played
and learned new ways of being
and stopped
and listened deeper
someone meditated
someone prayed
someone danced
someone met their shadow
and people began to think differently
and people healed
and in the absence of people who lived in ignorant ways,
dangerous, meaningless and heartless,
even the earth began to heal
and when the danger ended
and people found each other
grieved for the dead people
and they made new choices
and dreamed of new visions
and created new ways of life
and healed the earth completely
just as they were healed themselves.

***May you be blessed in your waking days
And your sleeping hours
In your grieving and in your rejoicing
In your loving and in your remembering
In all the places of your heart
May you be blessed.***

The artist David Hockney has shared a new artwork to welcome in the Spring. Drawn on an iPad it shows a crop of bright yellow daffodils with the title '**Do remember they can't cancel Spring**'. We can all marvel at the beauty of Spring flowers even as we social distance or self isolate.

Please email contributions for the Newsletter to Tracy Dick tracydick@icloud.com. **While many services and activities are suspended there is space to include some alternative items so please, do get in touch with any ideas.**

Deadlines coming up: 19th April 2020, 24th May, 21st June, 19th July.

Thanks: Dorothy Tate would like to thank the Church for the flowers and good wishes after her recent fall.

News: We have been contacted by Diana Ramsdale, daughter of a past member, Jessie Chambers. She has emailed to let us know that Jessie died on Sunday 8th March. Jessie came to Cross Gates in the early 1950s, where her daughter Diana was born, and moved away mid 1970s. During this period, they were both active members of Cross Gates Methodist chapel and the Sunday School. Jessie was a Leader in both the Brownies and Girl Guides in the 1960s-70s and sang in the choir in the '50s. She was also a teacher at Manston Infants, as it was then. They both enjoyed the wonderful community spirit of the church, and Jessie knew many of the families, some of whom may still be in the congregation and might remember her. Diana writes, 'I have very, very happy memories of your church and if I lived nearer I would still be attending!'

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