



# CROSSGATES METHODIST CHURCH

## June

## Newsletter

## 2020

MINISTER: Rev Helen White

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### Ruth

If I said 'Ruth', I wonder what would come to your mind. It may be you have a friend or relative with that name. Perhaps, because I'm asking the question, you're hastily scanning your memory for mentions of Ruth in the Bible! It is the Biblical Ruth I'm thinking of - one of only two women to have a book named after her. You can find her book after Joshua and Judges, and before the two books of Samuel. We will be looking at Ruth's story, and the book named for her, during the month of June. It's Bible Month, when Methodists are invited to focus on one book for the month, and look at it in more depth. This year's book is Ruth. Perhaps you might find time to read through the whole book at some point during June. Our worship over Zoom will focus on Ruth, as will the worship at home sheets which we'll send out. There will be opportunity for Bible study too - I'm currently working on how that is going to work using Zoom, phone conversations, email, or in other ways that will enable as many as possible to join in. Let me know if you have any suggestions as to how else people could join in. For now, a little introduction to Ruth. The main characters are Naomi (a widow from Bethlehem in Judah), Ruth (her daughter-in-law who comes from Moab), and Boaz, (a land owning farmer from Bethlehem). Ruth is to be found in the family tree of Jesus - she gives birth to one of King David's ancestors. We can read the story as one of love and commitment. We can also look deeper into the story for other themes - something about foreigners and their place in God's story perhaps, as well as what it might have to say to us in our current situation. Let's see what we can discover together in the book of Ruth this June.

**Helen**

## **AGM & Church Council**

You will realise that we didn't hold our AGM as scheduled in May, because of current restrictions due to Coronavirus. We will find a new date for the AGM, when such meetings are able to go ahead, and enough of us are able to gather. We have a Church Council in the diary for June. This will not happen.

If there are urgent issues which need dealing with before we are able to meet in person, an emergency Church Council will be called, and relevant papers circulated to everyone who is on it, inviting comments to the chair or secretary in advance of the meeting. The meeting itself will happen over Zoom, with people able to join via phone, computer or tablet. I recognise that there will still be some Council members who wouldn't be able to join in, but it is the best we can do in the circumstances. Hopefully we won't need to do this, but I thought it would be helpful for you to know that we have contingency plans in place, and these are in line with Charity Commission and Methodist guidance on Church Council meetings during lockdown.

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## **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**

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## **Funding our Church**

Thank you so much to all those people who are 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.

### **Dial-a-Prayer**

A 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

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### **Covid – 19 Support**

St Gemma's and Wheatfields Hospices have joined forces to offer a Covid-19 support helpline. It offers free advice and support from trained bereavement workers.

The line is open to anyone in Leeds whose family member or friend is critically ill, or has died from any illness during the Covid-19 period.

Call St Gemma's Hospice on 0113 218 5544 or Wheatfields Hospice on 0113 203 3369.

If the phone is engaged leave a message with your name and phone number and someone will return your call. The service is open Monday – Friday between 9am and 4pm (excluding bank holidays).

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### **Leeds South & East Foodbank - helping local people in crisis**

The need to support the foodbank continues to be important. Over 90% of the food distributed is donated by the public, that's why our continued support is vital. John Best already has some contributions to deliver to them in the next couple of weeks. If you have anything to give then he is happy to collect from you. The foodbank urgently needs coffee, long life milk, dilute/long life juice, tinned fish, tinned meat, biscuits, tinned rice pudding, tinned potatoes. Please contact John at [jvbest39@hotmail.com](mailto:jvbest39@hotmail.com) if you can help.



Many of us are using our daily walks to discover beautiful places right on our doorsteps. This is the woods at Scholes. Please pray for anyone unable to get out at this time.

Barbara Leeming says that flowers from our gardens can look just as pretty as more exotic ones from the shops. A small bouquet of greenery, given with love, can brighten someone's day.



### **A message from Barbara Lloyd**

Greetings to everyone, I hope you remain well and are managing to cope with the situation. Some of us have seen each other on Zoom, so the shock of seeing each other with somewhat different hairstyles when we eventually meet up, will be a little reduced! We are all

missing things dreadfully, not least for many of us, cuddling our grandchildren and seeing family. I am a zoom fan now and meet up



with our family that live in Oxford every week and manage games such as 'Rapidough' and 'Pictionary' and even hide and seek!

I was in the queue at the Chemist just after Easter and a lady I know slightly from St Theresa's asked me if she'd seen me at Cross Gates Church. When I answered yes she told me she was overcome with joy when she passed our church on Easter Sunday and saw the Cross outside our church decorated with flowers.

She was on her walk but said she had sat on the seat and

prayed for our congregation and Christians throughout the world. The flowers didn't last very long as they were mostly wild flowers but nevertheless it was a bit of normality at a far from normal time.

I go into our church often to do photocopying and checking, and it is safe, but of course empty of our lovely congregation. I feel very privileged to be able to go inside at the moment as I can sit for a few minutes and I can feel Gods love holding on to us all.

Love and Peace to you all and I cannot wait until we can meet up again.

### **A message from Harry Drake**

From the confinements of 'lockdown' I feel that I must express on behalf of Jean and myself and surely many others, our heartfelt thanks for the work and consideration of those responsible for the 'Act of Worship' received each week. Of course we grievously miss our Sunday Service at 'Croggie' and our face to face contact with our friends, but it is great to have such a good substitute.

Speaking personally, we start our private service spot-on 10am following the sheet (with the odd additions) with soft music in the background provided by Lesley Garrett singing sacred songs. This ends in time for the BBC Service at 10.45am from Hereford Cathedral. A great kick into the next week.

While in the mood, may I also thank Tracy Dick and whoever else is involved in producing the monthly Newsletter and keeping us all in touch.

May we all soon be back together at the Church we love. Until then keep safe and God bless.

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### **BBC TV – The Repair Shop**

This is a heart-warming programme where people bring in much loved objects, many with family connections, to be repaired and restored by a team of highly skilled experts.

In a recent episode metalworker Dominic China tackled one of his greatest challenges when members of Gosport Methodist Church brought in a dilapidated old weather vane that once stood proudly on the roof of the Church. Battered by decades of everything the English weather could throw at it, the weather vane had almost deteriorated to the point of no return. Rusted, jammed up and stubbornly non-functioning, the job required Dom to call on all his considerable skills – from metal salvage to graphic design. It was therefore wonderful to see many of the Church congregation gather to watch a fully restored weather vane be reinstalled in its Hampshire home.

**'When We Are Free' a poem by Lewis, aged 11**

(Dorothy Weston's Grandson)

When we are free  
I will travel  
When we are free  
I will meet  
There will be no more rules. No far apart families

When we are free  
I will have parties  
When we are free  
People can smile  
We can see our friends and live normally

O please set us free  
So we can be one loving family  
Even if we are apart  
We still feel together

When we are free  
I can go far away  
When we are free  
I will see old faces  
So please set us free from our own homes to live a normal life

Please set us free



## **World Mission Fund Grants for Coronavirus Response**

Even while lockdown eases in some places, the cases of Coronavirus continue to rise in many others and the effects of lockdown are keenly felt by families living on a day to day income. To date since the beginning of a global lockdown in March, the World Mission Fund of the Methodist Church in Britain has dispersed over £325,000 in support, for the work of our global partners. For example a grant of £20,000 to the **Presbyterian Church in Cameroon** which will be used to alleviate hunger, improve living conditions and to support the hygiene practices of 1,500 persons. Here the Church has also been supported by All We Can during this period through the distribution of hand sanitiser to medical staff and internally displaced persons.

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Please email contributions for the Newsletter to Tracy Dick [tracydick@icloud.com](mailto: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: 22nd June, 20th July, 24<sup>th</sup> August.

**Thanks:** Pam Wilcox wishes to thank all her faithful Church family and friends who are doing shopping and other errands for her. She says: They all go that extra mile with a smile. I'm thinking of you all as I light my daily candle for everything that is happening at this difficult time. I hope we will all be seeing each other very soon.'

**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.

**Our thoughts and prayers are with all the families and friends who have lost a loved one through the pandemic that is sweeping the world.**

### **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**