



CROSSGATES METHODIST CHURCH October 2020 Newsletter

MINISTER: Rev Helen White

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By the time you read this newsletter, we will hopefully have had our first service back in the building after six months away. We may have been yearning to get back to 'normal', whatever we think that may be, but we're still in a strange land, much like the people of Israel in Exile in Babylon. The author of Psalm 137, asked, 'how can we sing the Lord's song in a strange land?' Maybe that's a question we've wrestled with at times. Even though we were back in the building, it may have still felt like a strange land, and we can't sing yet (at least not out loud). My thoughts had partly been sparked by the opening devotions at the district synod on the 12th September. In it, Revd Becki Stennett, (minister of Garforth, Barwick and Scholes) read a version of Psalm 137, re-written for 2020. With her permission, it is included here. For those of you have access to the internet, you may want to listen to Becki reading it on the circuit YouTube channel (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hptuCJc3pnl>)

Blessings

Helen

Service Options

If there are any people or situations you would like included in the prayers in 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.

By the rivers of Babylon: Psalm 137 for the year 2020

By Rev Becki Stennett, September 2020

By the closed front doors of our buildings, there we sat down and wept.
On the wood and glass we hung our 'Building Closed' signs
and with them we hung up so much of what we thought Church should be
or do.

How could we sing the Lord's song in a strangely changed land?

How could we keep the patterns of our faith

when the places we meet,

the homes of our worship,

the places we come to greet

one another in love

were out of bounds?

How could we sing the song of love when we couldn't shake a hand?

How deepen our discipleship when we couldn't meet as always planned?

How could we be church when we couldn't be inside?

How welcome people in when our doors can't open wide?

How keep to our schedule of meetings and committees,

How pastor to one another without the cakes and teas?

How could we sing the Lord's song in the middle of so many things
changing

How still do church with all we know in all our lives is shifting,
rearranging?

We sat and we wept,

then slowly in crept

sharing of pain, of fear and confusion,

an honesty, an openness,

some new sense of union

as together, while the pews and chairs and halls stayed empty

we realised there were things we could do – indeed, plenty.

And even more we saw

what we kind of knew before

that church isn't something we do- it's something we are.

It doesn't sit well, for most of us yet,

and the light at the end of the tunnel is too far off to get

to but

perhaps what we're learning
is that the song we sing
is no arbitrary thing,
but the heart's deep yearning
to show and share and live God's love,
a song which endures regardless
of restrictions from above,
to know that at home we're not worshipping alone,
that our buildings are familiar to us but
sometimes they limit us
from acknowledging
the Lord's song is woven through every moment of our living,
How can we sing the Lord's song in a strangely changed land?
Perhaps we start by taking God's hand,
who has been singing the song
over each of us, and in
the hard times still trying to teach us
it's not what we do,
the song is all we're called to be
by the God who put the song in you and me.

Leeds South & East Foodbank
helping local people in crisis

At the end of August we delivered 8 of the large green containers (of Food Bank supply) with food and toiletries to the distribution centre at Hunslet. *I believe that this is the most we have ever donated in a month!!* Because of the coronavirus epidemic most of the small collection places (mainly church or village halls) in Leeds South and East *have had to close*. This is because of the difficulty keeping both clients and volunteers safe when contact, social distancing, deep cleaning etc. are considered.

To counteract this, the Distribution Centre now *delivers food/toiletries directly* to the clients who are referred to them, and at the moment have enough car driving volunteers to do this.

In these uncertain times the food problem with many families is going to get bigger and so all the donations our Church can make is greatly appreciated.

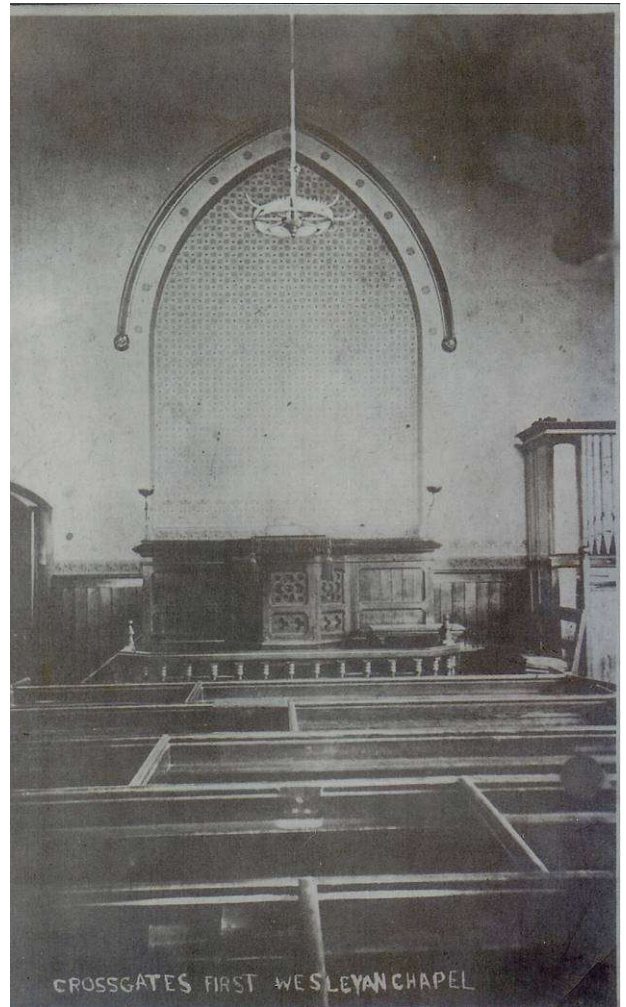
**If you are able to donate, please contact John Best.email
jvbest39@hotmail.com who will gladly collect from you.**

The History of Methodism in Cross Gates (Part Two)

On 26th May 1882 the site for the first chapel in Austhorpe Road was given by Mr. Isaac Chadwick of Whitby. Eight days after, on 28 June 1882, memorial stones were laid. The Rev. Marshall Randles, (President of Conference 1903) presided and gave an address. The day's proceeds amounted to £224.

On 6th December 1882 the first Wesleyan Methodist Chapel in Cross Gates (now the church hall) was opened, in a blinding snowstorm. The building was dedicated by the Rev. Marshall Randles who also preached. The total cost of the building, exclusive of land, was £835. 15s. 7½d

The Seat Rent Ledger Book for 1883 shows the names of the congregation and amounts paid by them for the rent of their pew!



SEAT RENT										
1883										
No. of Pew.	No. of Sitting.	NAME AND RESIDENCE OF SEAT-HOLDER.	Seats Taken.	Price per qr.	Arrears Brought Forward.	Jan 1 To Lady Day.	April 1 To Midsummer.			
					£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
TOTALS Brought Forward										
10	6	M ^{rs} Elizabeth Taylor <i>Cross Gates</i>	6	4	"	"	"	12 0	"	12 0
21	3	Mr Joseph Lumb <i>Cross Gates</i>	3	4	"	"	"	6 0	"	6 0
11	6	M ^r D. Ward	4	4	"	"	"	8 0	"	8 0
11	"	M ^r J. Townsend. <i>Hermon Terrace -</i>	2	4	"	"	"	4 0	"	4 0
12	3	M ^{rs} Foster. <i>Primrose Hill " "</i>	2	4	"	"	"	4 0	"	not paid
12	"	M ^r Law	1	4	"	"	"	not paid	"	not paid
13	4	George S. Bronnhill <i>Cross Gates</i>	4	1/6	"	"	"	6 0	"	6 0
14	2	M ^{rs} Harrison. <i>Primrose Hill Halton</i>	2	1/6	"	"	"	3 0	"	3 0
15	3	M ^{rs} H. Turner <i>Washed Cross Gates</i>	1	4	"	"	"	1 0	"	1 0
15	"	M ^{rs} Ada Smart	1	4	"	"	"	1 0	"	1 0
1	4	M ^r J. Atkinson	2	4/6	"	"	"	8 0	"	8 0

By **1885** the chapel was becoming too small for the growing Methodist Congregation. Adjacent land to the east was donated by Isaac Chadwick, with the original intention of extending the chapel, but in March 1891 Danby was asked to prepare plans for a second chapel. The foundation stone was laid on 25th June 1892 and the new building was officially opened on 13th May **1893** at a cost of £1500.

The new church, which did not yet include transepts or chancel, provided accommodation for 240 people in the body of the church and 110 in the gallery. At this time the membership was 62 with 90 scholars in the Sunday School; fortnightly collections amounted to about £2.

*By Christine Holdstock with help from
Michael Teal*

(Look out for Part Three in the next edition of the newsletter)

Year of Prayer

The Methodist Conference has declared 2020/2021 a year of prayer. We will be offering some ideas on ways of praying in newsletters.

Focus on images, not words.

Sometimes you desperately want to pray, but your heart is so heavy with suffering, or your mind is such a jumble of thoughts that you can't think of the right words. You know what you want to communicate, but putting the words together is tedious, tiresome, or just not happening.

Remember that we do not always have to pray with words. Our minds and hearts are not one-dimensional. We live in a colourful world, and are gifted with vivid imaginations. Try praying in images instead of words. Is there someone you want to pray for? Visualise that person in your mind and heart, and offer him or her to God in this way. Are you worried about a damaged relationship, an upcoming event, or a big decision?

Envision those people and situations, and offer the images as heartfelt prayers.

God already knows your mind and heart. These "image prayers" will make every bit as much sense to Him as your words.



Dignity in Destitution

Asylum seekers are often the bottom of the pile when it comes to support and sympathy.

Each person has their own story of how and why they have made the difficult decision to leave their home and maybe their entire family, to make a long, often terrifying and dangerous journey to another country. They are frequently traumatised, bewildered and confused by the hostile reception they get from the Home Office, when they finally get to the UK.

They are people like us, who had a home, a job, a normal life and a simple wish to continue living in peace. War, persecution and discrimination are common reasons for their need to escape, sometimes to save their lives. The choice is not made lightly, and their hope is to rebuild a life somewhere free from persecution and conflict. Sadly, they are likely to find the UK a less welcoming place than they hoped and have the added issues of language, isolation, poverty and unemployment to deal with.

LEDAS (Leeds Destitute Asylum-seekers Support) is a new charity, recently granted charitable status. We believe that offering decent accommodation to asylum seekers should be possible and our aim is to find two houses, accommodating four men in each. The properties and residents will be managed and supported by volunteers and financed by grants and charitable donations. This aim is supported by various organisations around Leeds, including PAFRAS (Positive Action For Refugees and Asylum Seekers), British Red Cross, LASSN, NACCOM (the No Accommodation network).

If you feel you would like to help with this project, we welcome financial support, offers of befriending for residents or practical help with maintenance and preparation of houses for habitation. Most urgently we need to find property which we can prepare for group living and subsequently manage. The trustees of LEDAS are working hard to make this happen.

If you feel you can offer help please email info@ledas.org.uk. If you could offer financial support our bank details are: Leeds Destitute Asylum Seeker Support, Sort Code 05-00-85, A/C No 36279195

Returning to our Building

Up to the date of writing this I have been told that 29 people will be attending the service on the 27th Sept. We can take up to 31, so please ring me if you have decided you want to come or for that matter if you have changed your mind and now don't wish to come.

Please make sure you have read the document that has been circulated (and updated) so that you realise how different to usual our service will be. You should not feel bad if you feel it is too early in the present 'covid climate' to come back to worship in the building, as many feel that way just now. So many people have told me how much they are enjoying the zoom services and worship at home sheets.

Some plastering has been done at church while we have been away. Some paint has flaked off the walls and will be replaced soon. We are having professional cleaners in on Wednesday, so it will be clean by the time we meet for our first service. It will be great to have people in the building again. We have two groups using the hall again and that seems to be working well.

I am sure many of you will join me in thanking Helen for the wonderful Zoom services she has led over the past months they have added a whole new dimension to our spiritual lives, and certainly something we are so glad we could take part in. We are blessed to have Helen as our Minister.

On another matter, our church has needed a great deal of cleaning after being closed and being plastered. Many of the pew covers will not be needed for a few months so if anyone would be willing to wash a couple, it would be great help. Lynda Robinson and I will have washed the ones needed for the next few months. They just need washing in a normal washer on a 30 degree wash. Please let me know if you can help.

Thank You, Barbara Lloyd.

Running Costs: Many thanks to everyone who is continuing to contribute towards the running costs of our Church. 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.

Discover York Minster's Hidden Treasures at a new exhibition: The Heart of Yorkshire: Creativity and Culture in York Minster's Collections is set in the cathedral's 13th century Chapter House. The exhibition brings together around 50 items which tell the stories of culture and creativity in York over the centuries, from stained glass painting in the Middle Ages to the establishment of a craft guild for the city's goldsmiths in the 1300s. The exhibition has been made possible thanks to funding and support from The National Lottery Heritage Fund and Museum Development Yorkshire. Entry is free with your general admission ticket. See the website for opening times and prices.

Free phone service to hear prayers and news from the Methodist Church:

Listen to a prayer: 0808 281 2514

Listen to news: 0808 281 2478

Content is updated weekly on a Thursday evening.

Newsletter: Please email contributions for the Newsletter to Tracy Dick tracydick@icloud.com Deadlines coming up: 17th September, 15th October, 19th November.

Condolences: Please remember in your thoughts and prayers Vera Johnson and family on the death of her husband George and to Joan Chorley and family on the death of her sister Cynthia in Australia.

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