



# CROSSGATES METHODIST CHURCH September 2020

MINISTER: Rev Helen White

## **New Year...**

Who would have thought our new church year, and the new year for schools, would look like this? When we closed our buildings in March, did any of us imagine we'd not have been back inside them for nearly 6 months? By the time we hold the first service in the building it will be more than 6 months since we last worshipped together in March. It's probably just as well we don't know what lies ahead of us, instead taking things one day at a time.

At the beginning of this new academic and church year, as we gradually begin meeting one another in person again, we may well end up comparing our experiences of lock down and the last 6 months. Whilst we have all had restrictions, each of us is likely to have experienced those in different ways. We will probably have some frustrations in common with other people, and some that differ. There will be various joys and sorrows we will have experienced. Some of us will be out and about mixing sooner than others; some will have been out working or caring throughout lockdown. There isn't a right or wrong way to have experienced the last 6 months. There isn't a right or wrong way to experience the next 6 months. Be patient with one another, accepting of our differences. Be patient as we all continue learning how to live in this changed world.

One new thing for the start of the year – church council has met and agreed our first service in the building at Cross Gates Methodist Church will be 27<sup>th</sup> September. It will look quite different to what we were used to, and more information will be coming out in the next week or so. If, by 6<sup>th</sup> September, you haven't received a letter telling you about re-opening and

you want to come along on the 27<sup>th</sup>, please get in touch with Helen White or Barbara Lloyd and we will make sure you get a copy. Other groups and activities will have different start dates – some may not meet again in the building until after Christmas.

So what will this new Methodist year be like? Different to the last one – just as the school year will be for staff and pupils. Hopefully it will be a time of returning and new starts – but there are likely to be downs as well as ups; things we have to stop doing, as well as things we can start. The one thing we can be sure of is this: God is with us in all of it.

Blessings  
Helen

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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.

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### **Summertime by Alan Sandham**

I have heard the voice of Summer  
In the birds making their calls,  
And I have seen it as it ended  
In each leaf as it falls.

I have heard the clicking warning of the blackbird in the hedge,  
And imagined creatures nesting on the heathland and in sedge.  
And although my back garden only stands in for countrysides.

It's still nature, just as I am,  
And nature finds its way  
every time.

## **Re-opening of Church**

The Church Council has met and agreed the risk assessment and associated planning and preparation. We are aiming to have our first service back in the building on September 27th. We won't be worshipping at Cross Gates every week just yet, so the September service will be just the start of reopening and more information will follow about which weeks we will worship at Cross Gates. Numbers will be limited, just as they are in shops, and you may well need to queue to get in. We will send you further details nearer the time about what to expect.

It would help our planning if you could indicate to Barbara or Helen whether you hope to come to worship in the building on 27th September.

Over the coming months, we will continue to circulate Worship at Home sheets weekly to those who would like them, and to offer worship over Zoom most weeks, alongside beginning to use the building.

## **Harvest**

The service on the 27th will be a Harvest, though in a more limited way than usual. If you want to bring along tins or packets for the food bank, there will be a box on your right-hand side as you walk through the Galilee. Alternatively, you may want to make donations to All We Can via their website <https://www.allwecan.org.uk/give/make-a-donation/>

## **A Harvest Prayer**

*Creator and sustainer of all, at this harvest season we gather as your people to offer you our heartfelt thanks and praise.*

*We praise you for the bounty and variety of your creation,*

*The succession of the seasons,*

*The productiveness of the soil,*

*The harvest of land and sea.*

*Creating and sustaining God with wonder in our hearts we thank you.*

## **The History of Methodism in Cross Gates (Part One)**

John Wesley, the founder of Methodism, was born in **1703**, he travelled about 5,000 miles per year and preached all over the British Isles. During his 56 years as a preacher it is estimated he journeyed 250,000 miles, most of it on horseback, and preached 40,000 sermons. He would read and write in his journal as he rode along.

His journal records that:

*Saturday, 25 July, 1761*

*About one I preached at Seacroft, and found several who believed God had saved them from sin.*

The first Methodist Chapel in Seacroft was erected in **1751**, part of the original wall remains to this day.

No doubt, people from the neighbouring village of Cross Gates were amongst those who listened to the preaching of John Wesley at Seacroft and joined in the fellowship of the small Methodist Society week by week. There would not be many of them for the village of Cross Gates was very small and nearly a hundred years after the beginning of Methodism in Seacroft there were still only about 35 cottages in Cross Gates, Manston and Stanks together.

In the late **1860's** a group of Methodists was meeting in the cottage of Mrs. Colley in Station Road and later at William Fall's house in The Orchards. The members of this group started to hold services in a thatched cottage on Austhorpe Road.

This cottage, the home of Thomas Taylor, stood opposite the present Methodist Church - it was the people who attended the cottage services who conceived the idea of building a Methodist Church in Cross Gates over a hundred years ago.

By the year **1876** Cross Gates was growing, the population in that year was estimated at about 749 and



THATCHED COTTAGE  
IN WHICH THE FIRST SERVICES WERE HELD

there were 200 children attending the school. The Cross Gates Methodists decided the time had come to build a church and on 24 January 1876 the building fund was started (first collection £1. 1s. 0d).

*By Christine Holdstock with help from Michael Teal*

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

## **Year of Prayer**

The Methodist Conference has declared 2020/2021 a year of prayer where Church-wide commitments to evangelism, church growth, church at the margins, pioneering and church planting will flow from a deep, contemplative orientation to God's grace and love.

“Prayer is the raising of one's mind and heart to God,” wrote Saint John Damascene. Whether we are speaking with words or sitting in silence, prayer is time spent mindfully in God's presence. Prayer is, quite simply, being with God.

It sounds so straightforward, even effortless. What could be more natural than spending time with the God who created us, who loves us, and who holds us in existence? And yet, we know from experience that prayer does not always feel natural. In fact, it can be hard work.

Prayer requires discipline, motivation, and even creativity. We may find ourselves approaching our prayer lives as we do other difficult tasks like exercising and eating right. We may start out strong and then slowly lose enthusiasm. We may be disappointed in the results of our hard work and gradually give up.

Even if we are dedicated to prayer and keep at it despite its inevitable challenges, we can easily find ourselves in a prayer rut. We may feel that we are not progressing in our spiritual lives or experiencing the “spark” we might expect from spending time in God's dynamic presence.

Whether you are trying to get into a regular habit of prayer or looking for ways to enhance your existing prayer life, trying new ways to pray can be beneficial.

*We will be offering some ideas on new ways of praying in future newsletters.*



## **Sponsored Walk for Tranquility Court Social Fund**

Bill Ineson and John Best completed the 11-mile walk on Thursday August 6<sup>th</sup> from Great and Little Ouseburn, Whixley and Marton-Cum-Grafton. Encountered extreme heat, nettles, overgrown paths, fields of wheat where the path was non-existent, many stiles plus a field of cattle where the big brown bull appeared to be interested in us.

Had a near escape when we made a **BEE LINE** for a seat in Morton Cum Grafton Cemetery – only to find the Wasps had beaten us to it and made a nest under the seat.

Both of us really enjoyed every minute with the rolling, undulating countryside plus views of the Wolds and the edge of the North Yorkshire Moors. We are so lucky to live in God's own County.

Many thanks to the people who kindly sponsored us. **The amount raised is over £420.**

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### **Leeds South & East Foodbank**

#### **helping local people in crisis**

Your Church delivered 6 Food boxes/containers, a cardboard box and a carrier bag all full of food and hygiene items in August. This filled the back of a car with the rear seats lowered!! Thanks to all who contributed.

South and East Leeds food bank opened in 2013 and last year supplied 3 day emergency food to 12,550 people in crisis.

Urgently required now are donations of Coffee, Dilute Juice, tinned Fish, tinned Meat, Tinned Potatoes, Biscuits, toiletries, Soap, Tooth Paste, Tooth Brushes, Feminine Hygiene items, Razors, Deodorants, Loo Rolls, Washing-up liquid and household cleaners.

If you are able to donate, please contact John Best (email [jvbest39@hotmail.com](mailto:jvbest39@hotmail.com)) who will gladly collect from you.

## **St Gemma's Hospice, Make A Will Month, October 2020**

Make A Will Month gives you the opportunity to have your Will written by a professional solicitor. Throughout October St Gemma's Hospice works with solicitors across Leeds, who all kindly agree to waive their fees for writing your Will, in exchange for a donation to St Gemma's Hospice. For more information you can visit the Hospice's website:

[www.st-gemma.co.uk](http://www.st-gemma.co.uk) or phone Laura on 0113 306 9170 for a leaflet.

As life changes around us. it is a good time to consider making your Will. A professionally written Will can make life much easier for our loved ones when the time comes. A Will is the only way to make sure your money, property and possessions go to the people and causes you care about.

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A 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 Thursday evening

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### **The breakthrough prayer**

A prayer for God to break through in the life of our churches:

God of love, God for all,  
your purposes are more beautiful than we can possibly imagine.  
Fill us with your Holy Spirit.  
Help us let go of all that holds us back.  
Open our lives and our churches to new seasons of humility and faith, of  
change and growth.  
Shake us up with the Good News of Jesus and show us the way.

Amen

**Newsletter:** Please email contributions for the Newsletter to Tracy Dick [tracyldick@icloud.com](mailto:tracyldick@icloud.com) Deadlines coming up: 17<sup>th</sup> September, 15<sup>th</sup> October, 19<sup>th</sup> November.

**Running Costs:** 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 and is especially appreciated as we face the additional costs of professional cleaning in order to keep us all safe. 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.

**Thank you:** Just confirming that I have received the cheque for £451.50 as a donation to Chapel FM and raised at the Church's music and lunch events. Can you pass on a huge thank you from all of us at Chapel FM and we look forward to inviting everyone back to the Centre once we have finished the next phase of the building development and we've got past the present COVID 19 situation. Yours, Adrian.

**Good Luck:** our thoughts and prayers are with all young people, teachers and support staff as they return to classrooms this September.

**Congratulations to:** Jessica Dick who qualifies as a solicitor on 15<sup>th</sup> September 2020.

**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*