



CROSSGATES METHODIST
CHURCH

December 2020 Newsletter

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At home in Advent

Looking ahead to Advent from the middle of November (which is when I'm writing this) there is a lot of uncertainty around Advent and Christmas, or at least how much of what we usually do will be possible. One thing we can be sure of is that we'll be spending more time than usual at home – hence the title. It's also the title of the Advent book you are invited to read this year, with opportunity to have conversations with others about what you read, over Zoom, via WhatsApp or on the phone.

But as well as being physically in our own homes during Advent, are we at home in Advent in the sense of being at ease in Advent, comfortable with Advent? And should we be at home in Advent anyway, or is it a season in which to feel uncomfortable? There is plenty in the prophets we read at this time of year to challenge, but also to comfort: “Comfort, comfort my people’ says the Lord...” (Isaiah 40). It's one of two seasons in the year which are times of preparation, described as penitential seasons. We probably focus less on penitence in Advent than we do in Lent, but they are similar seasons in the church. With there likely to be less of the usual things happening, might we find time to dwell in Advent a little more, in this time of penitence and preparation?

It's a season to prepare for God coming amongst us, to celebrate that this happened at the first Christmas, and also to look forward to him coming again. The challenge of Advent is to be ready to meet God – hence the need for penitence and preparation, the reason we need to read again from the prophets. Whatever the particular challenges of Advent and Christmas 2020, whatever is different this year, God does not change, nor does his coming amongst us in Jesus.

As you travel through Advent this year, at home, may you now God with you in your preparations.

Helen

Christmas Greetings

Why not send Christmas greetings to the Church family via a special edition of this Church newsletter and support Action for Children at the same time. Your greeting will reach everyone associated with Church and save you money on cards and postage. In return for a small donation to Action for Children your messages will be included and distributed in the middle of December. The deadline for messages is **Friday 11th December** and they can be sent to Tracy via email tracylouisedick@gmail.com or write to 5 Manston Gardens, Leeds, LS15 8EY.

Donations should be sent to Linda Booth (clearly separated from your collection) or posted to Church. If you are a gift aider already we will be able to boost your donation by 25% without you having to do anything further.

Action for Children helps children across the UK to grow up safe and happy. They offer practical and emotional support to families. And they work with decision-makers to make sure government policies protect children, now and in the future. Donations fund a huge range of programmes – from schemes preventing neglect to mental health support. Last year they helped 368,648 children, young people and families. Action for Children relies on individual donations so any size of donation makes a difference.

Christmas Services

We are hoping we can have some services in the Colton and Cross Gates Church buildings in December, but it will all depend on the situation with the virus. This is a provisional plan of what the services may be but these plans are subject to change depending on the restrictions in place.

Date	Type
Sunday, 6 th Dec	Zoom
Sunday, 13 th December	Zoom
Sunday, 20 th December	Cross Gates Church & Zoom
Thursday 24 th December (Christmas Eve, Midnight)	Zoom
Friday, 25 th December (Christmas Day)	Colton Church & on screen at Cross Gates Church & Zoom
Sunday, 27 th December	Zoom

All of the services will be led by the Rev. Helen White except Sunday 13th December which will be led by the Rev. Joyce Nicholson.

If any changes are required due to different Covid restrictions we will let you know.

Don't forget you have to book a place for the in-building services including the Christmas Day service if you want to watch it on the screen in Cross Gates Church. At these services you will only be able to sit with people from your household.

Book a place with Barbara 0113 264 3134

Christmas CD

A special Christmas service on a CD is being produced by the Methodist Church for those who may not be able to join streamed services. The service features voices from around the Connexion sharing in song and conversation with bible readings, carols and interviews. The CD will be available free (P & P charges apply) from the Methodist Publishing website from the middle of December

Leeds South & East Foodbank
helping local people in crisis

Many thanks to all those who contributed to the Food Bank from our Church. In October the amount of food and toiletries donated meant that it was in excess of a safe carload - so in future we will plan to make two deliveries a month instead of the one.

News from the Food Bank is that even with the latest lockdown, most of the Leeds South and East outlets have now opened.

The scheme has been nominated as '*Charity of the Year*' by Radar Health Care, who will make a food collection point at their offices and also make a cash donation for every nomination they receive for their Radar Hero Award.

The South and East Leeds Food Bank Distribution Centre, is moving from Hunslet to **18 Millshaw Park LS11 8EG** (near the White Rose Centre). They will be the only occupier of a large warehouse. For the last couple of years, premises were shared with Fareshare, another charity, but as demand to both charities grew, so the storage and workspace came under pressure, (made more so with the pandemic) and social distancing was impossible.

Over 90% of the food distributed is donated by the public – that's why your help is absolutely vital to the foodbank's ability to give everyone referred to them a balanced and nutritious three day supply of food.

At the moment coffee, long life milk, dilute/long life orange, tinned fish, tinned meat, biscuits, tinned rice pudding and tinned potatoes are all urgently needed.

If you would like to donate food/toiletries, please contact John Best (01132 647283 or email jvbest39@hotmail.com who will collect if required.

'If you think you are too small to make a difference, try sleeping with a mosquito.' *The Dalai Lama*

The History of Methodism in Cross Gates (Part Four)



In **1962** Cross Gates was one of the strongest Methodist Churches in Leeds, with a membership of 426, a Sunday school roll of 350, and a youth club membership of 100.



Inside of Church in 1970

(By Christine Holdstock with help from Michael Teal)

Spotlight on.....

During this period when we are forced to be apart from each other we thought that it would be interesting to find out a little more about one other. So every month we will be putting the spotlight on a different member of our congregation. Our senior steward Barbara Lloyd has kindly volunteered to go first:

Barbara Lloyd – The Methodist Churches I have attended:

I have been a member of 4 churches in my life.

My first Methodist Church was St. Andrews Methodist Church at Beeston, The Church was in a wooden hut and I attended Sunday School on Sunday afternoons from the age of about 3. About 50 children attended - Beginners, Primary, juniors and seniors. We had 'Star Cards' which marked attendance and prizes at the end of each year. In the fifties the present Church was built with a new adjoining church hall. I attended Brownies, Guides, Cadets and was a Sunday School leader and Guide leader.

In the early 80's we moved to Meanwood and Meanwood Methodist was my 2nd church. On my first Sunday the elderly guide leader sought me out and told me she was waiting to retire. For the next 25 years I was guide leader of the 3rd Meanwood Guides Company.

In 2004 Michael and I retired and moved to Filey – a long time ambition. Filey Methodist Church is much the same as ours' except the building was upgraded while I was there, super modern internally, - pews removed, modern décor. Upstairs, above the hall there are showers and several loos, because of its seaside position, groups often came for pack holidays etc.

At Filey as at Cross Gates, there was a large congregation of mostly elderly people. A group of people who had been the backbone and the mainstays of the church, and who had, over many years turned their hand to every job there is to do in a church. There were no guides at Filey, so I thought I may be able to retire gracefully, but no, the Girls Brigade Leader wanted someone to take over and seemingly I fitted the job description!.

We stayed in Filey until 2013 by which time we had 4 grandchildren.

Perhaps when we moved to Cross Gates I was looking for a church that was similar to Filey, where I was a steward amongst other things. One of the main criteria when looking for a house in Leeds was for it to be within walking distance of a Methodist church.

Perhaps we will end our days in Cross Gates, perhaps not, Michael would like to return to the seaside but at the moment our daughter and her husband need us to help with childcare, and I would hate not being on hand to help and see them grow up.

If you would like to join in and offer a few words about your life to feature in future newsletters please send them to Tracy Dick (see the back page for contact details)

Congratulations

A note from Raymond Winders: Greetings from Derbyshire. It saddens me that I left without saying goodbye but some day we will meet again and talk of the good times we had years ago. I have settled down and am enjoying the wooded hills of Derbyshire. Goodbye and God Bless all. Yours Sincerely, Raymond.

Thank you: David Calvert would like to thank everyone for the 80th birthday cards and good wishes. He sends thanks also for your prayers during his recent illness. He continues to go for tests and sincerely hopes to improve .

Our Financial Contributions: Thank you to all those who have continued to contribute to the Church's running costs. Please send them to Linda Booth (107 Woodland Road, Leeds, LS15 7DN) or to the Church's address.

Newsletter: Please email contributions for the Newsletter to Tracy Dick tracylouisedick@gmail.com or write to 5 Manston Gardens, Leeds, LS15 8EY. Deadlines coming up: 11th December (special edition) and 21st January 2021.

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.

Service Options: If there are any people or situations you would like included in the prayers in worship, please let Helen know by Saturday morning, (having got permission from the individual to be named in our prayers).

Please do contact Helen if you would like to receive details of worship via email or would like to have printed worship sheets delivered.

Best wishes: we all wish Raymond Winders a happy future in his new home with his daughter. Raymond's new address is c/o Gillian Sanders, 29 The Hill, Glapwell, North Derbyshire, S44 5LX

Good luck and best wishes to Bill Ineson in his new home.

Condolences: please remember in your thoughts and prayers: Margaret Rhodes and all the family on the death of her beloved brother Bryan.

the family of Malcolm Towers (husband of the late Gwenda) on his death.

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