



**CROSSGATES
METHODIST CHURCH
Christmas
Newsletter
2020**

MINISTER: Rev Helen White

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December 2020

The Spirits of Christmas

Christmas Past:
Keeping hold of traditions,
Remembering when things were different,
And better?

Christmas Present:
Live for now
See God-with-us in the people around you
Jesus born in your heart.

Christmas Future:
The Second Coming
The King arriving in power and glory
With justice and love.

The spirits of Christmas:
Which one attracts us?
Do we live in the past, present or future?
God was, is and will be with us.

May you each know God with you now
in all the preparation, the looking ahead, or looking back.
May you know God's peace at Christmas
in the busyness or loneliness, the anticipation or dread.
May you know God's love, born in the baby at Bethlehem, in the year
ahead.

Wishing you the peace, love and joy born in Jesus. Helen

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, 20 th December	Cross Gates Church & Zoom (<i>retiring collection Action for Children</i>)
Thursday 24 th December (Christmas Eve, Midnight)	Zoom
Friday, 25 th December (Christmas Day)	Colton Church & on screen at Cross Gates Church & Zoom (<i>retiring collection Action for Children</i>)
Sunday, 27 th December	Zoom

All of the services will be led by the Rev. Helen White.

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.**

Loving God, open our eyes to recognise you in one another. May we work to end discrimination and prejudice wherever we find it, and remember that we are all part of one human family. Amen

A Message from Barbara, Senior Steward

Hello Everyone, Can you believe Christmas is almost here and we are still unable to worship in the usual way in church.

Lockdown has been an eye-opener for me in several respects. In the early months when we were all frightened, I was in awe of the braveness of those people doing essential services who kept working at great risk to themselves. Especially the Hospital staff and Care home staff of course, but I remember appreciating every piece of mail we received. Every week I would watch the dustbin men carrying out their normal work and the retail staff in the essential shops that were allowed to open. We had a water leak and a plumber came out to fix it. Michael had a hemorrhage from a tooth socket (He's on anticoagulants) a taxi arrived in minutes to take us to hospital and he was treated with the speed and efficiency you would expect in 'normal times.' What did it matter I couldn't get my hair cut, I became much more aware of the people who really suffered - those who actually got covid and those who died of it and their loved ones. Of those in other countries who were barely managing to survive before covid let alone when the virus reached them. I pictured those huge camps in Syria and the speed it would spread in those environments and they were in my prayers every day.

Some people may say 2020 has been a terrible year and we have nothing to be thankful for. I would say..... 'we certainly have!'

Peace and Joy to you all at Christmas and throughout 2021.

Barbara.

God of all,
John the Baptist came to bear witness to your light.
Fill us with faith and the courage to act upon it,
So that we may shine a light

in the darkness of these uncertain times. Amen

Christmas Greetings



Happy Christmas and a healthy New Year from Dorothy and Alan Tate

With best wishes to the Church Family for a Happy Christmas and a Healthy New Year from Brenda Dean and Tom Morrison

Wishing everyone a peaceful Christmas and a happy and healthy 2021. Tracy, Aleck and Jessica Dick

Pam Wilcox sends everyone best wishes for a happy and peaceful Christmas

John and Cynthia Best send Christmas blessings to all their Church family and best wishes for 2021

To the Church Family – Christmas greetings from Jean and Harry Drake. We wish you all a wonderful holiday and may we all meet again soon when these troubled times are gone. God bless you all

Wishing the Church Family Peace and Joy at Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year. From Shirley Clough

Greetings to all members of our Church family. May you experience a safe Christmas period and a far better new year. Best wishes Eric and Irene

Wishing all the Church Family a peaceful Christmas and a healthy and happy 2021 from Alison Lambert

With love at this special but difficult time. Beryl Gledhill

Happy Christmas to all the Church Family. Wishing you joy and peace this season and hoping to be able to see everyone again as 2021 progresses. Linda and Graham Booth

Wishing everyone a Merry and safe Christmas and a very Happy New Year. Lots of love, Jane and Holly x

Wishing a Happy Christmas to the Church Family especially to the Reverend Helen, Barbara and the Stewards for ensuring that we are kept informed during these trying times. May the coming year be hopefully a happier one for us all to worship together, once more. Joan and Trevor Chorley

Wishing you all a Happy Christmas and good health at this difficult time. May God bless you all and keep you safe. Margaret Wray

We wish everyone a merry Christmas and new hope and best wishes for the new year. Love to all Georgina and Roy Cressey

Best wishes to all the Church Family for a happy Christmas and a healthy and peaceful new year. Keith Tingle

Denise Durkin would like to wish all the congregation at Cross Gates a merry Christmas and a happy new year

Wishing all our Church Family a Happy and Peaceful Christmas and better times for everyone in 2021. Cedric and Lynda Robinson

Christmas Greetings to all the new Zoom friends I have made during the Sunday services, instigated by Rev Helen. It has been lovely to be able to speak to the others from the various Churches in our group. Pauline Brown

Margaret and Geoff Yapp send their best wishes to all our friends at Cross Gates, Colton and Seacroft Churches. We hope you will all have a very enjoyable, relaxed and peaceful Christmas

Christmas greetings to all at Cross Gates Church, with best wishes from Amanda Brow

Best wishes for a Happy Christmas to all the Church Family from Christine and Richard

With thanks to Christine and Richard for the Church display at the front of our Church. It bears Christian witness in the centre of our community.

(Please forgive any errors or omissions in the greetings)

Leeds South & East Foodbank
helping local people in crisis

Watching on television we see more and more people have now to depend on Food Banks, after losing their places of work due to the Coronavirus epidemic. **Unfortunately this figure is likely to grow - perhaps until the middle of next year.**

Donations to the Leeds South and East Food Bank Distribution centre have become more and more important.

In November our Church made 2 deliveries with a total of 12 containers to the Centre. Each container/basket will hold 40/45 tins of food, UHT milk, or orange. The figure drops slightly when such things as cornflakes and women's hygiene products are carried. We also filled one of the containers with chocolates as a special Christmas treat paid through extra donations.

MANY THANKS to all who donated including the residents of Tranquility Court who made a large contribution.

If you would like to contribute food/toiletries please contact John Best. email jvbest39@hotmail.com who will gladly collect.

Thursday Morning Group

Sadly due to the coronavirus all the weekly Church meetings have been cancelled but the ladies of the Thursday Morning Devotional Class would like to take this opportunity to say a sincere thank you to the friends who came to give a talk, sometimes with visual aids or musical recordings: Rev Helen White, John Best, Mike Durkin, Harry Drake, Christine Holdstock, Bill Ineson, Barbara Lloyd, Cedric Robinson, Irene Sercombe, Alan Tate, Michael Teal, Pauline Timms, Eric Varley and of course the late, much loved Kath Harwood. The time they gave was much appreciated and we always enjoyed these mornings with them. Simply a grateful, THANK YOU.

Spotlight on..... Harry Drake

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.

I have attended Cross Gates Methodist Church (or Croggie as our sons called it affectionately) for 52 years to date. The mind boggles. I am still not the longest inhabitant. I was born at Horbury, near Wakefield in 1929 when, as my mother said, the great depression started. Thanks Mum! After a time at West Ardsley we moved to Harehills, the year war broke out, and spent those troubled times living above my uncle's fish and chip shop in Lupton Avenue. We moved to this house in 1947 (the year of the big freeze) and I have been here ever since, so I must like it!

We were very much a Methodist family so I can claim no dramatic conversions on my CV. However being a typical teenager I did lapse for a number of years much to the concern of my mum, who never put me under any pressure, very wisely.

Finally the call must have come and I joined Brunswick Church in the town centre where I stayed for a number of years including 9 as Vestry Steward until it closed in 1966. By then (and what a fantastic move that has been) I was married to Jean. After two years at Oxford Place, we joined Cross Gates where our two boys were already in Junior Church with their pals.

What happy days they have been. I got involved in everything; Door Steward, Welcomer, Vestry Steward, Reader, Junior Church Secretary, Mens Fellowship, Communion Steward, Property Committee (nothing skilled, just waving a paintbrush around). I had a bash at the lot with varying degrees of success and utter failure. But always with great joy. Back to the day jobs; they number two, 17 years in advertising at the old Yorkshire Evening News until it folded and then in Education at Park Lane College on the administrative staff, which I loved.

Sorry to have bored you but it has been a very happy life culminating in a retirement of 29 years up to now, in which I have had a ball.

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)

Your Financial Contributions: Thank you to all those who have continued to contribute to the Church's running costs. Please send them to Linda Booth or to the Church's address.

Newsletter: Please email contributions for the Newsletter to Tracy Dick tracylouisedick@gmail.com, Deadlines coming up: 21st January, 18th February, 18th March 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.

Congratulations: to Pauline and John Hudson on the birth of their granddaughter Anneka. A daughter to Kate and Matthew.

Condolences: It is with great sadness we have to announce the death of Kath Harwood. Our thoughts and prayers are very much with her family and friends at this time.

It would be lovely to include some special memories of Kath from different perspectives in the next newsletter. If you have a memory you would like to share please send it to Tracy Dick by 21st January.

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