



**CROSSGATES
METHODIST CHURCH
Newsletter
March 2021**

MINISTER: Rev Helen White

Self denial or gratitude?

What does Lent mean to you? 40 days of self-denial before indulging in Easter Eggs?

An obligation to give up something that you enjoy?

It doesn't seem fair to be asked to give something up after the year we've had - especially just now, when the end of the restrictions seems so close but never quite seems to arrive.

In more normal times, it's probably a good thing to give up chocolate, or coffee, for a while. It's healthy to acknowledge that life, for most of us, is full of luxuries that we take for granted. It's good to prove to ourselves that we have the self-discipline to choose to go without. But life has been very restricted over the past eleven months, and we've had to go without hugs, and celebration meals (and other things, too) as well as treats. We've missed a lot of the things that make life enjoyable.

So here's a different challenge for Lent this year. Every day, make a note of something that you are grateful for. It doesn't have to be a big thing - it may be something quite small, but it lifted your spirits for a moment. If you can tell someone about it, it might brighten their day, too. If you live alone and don't see many people, why not make a phone call, send an email or start a Gratitude Journal?

Or why not borrow an idea from the Sunday Club at the church where a friend of mine is? Draw a big heart shape on a piece of paper, and put it somewhere where you can see it. Then each day, write a couple of words inside the heart to remind you what you're thankful for (or draw a little picture, if you prefer). As the days go by, the heart will fill up and remind

you of the good things in life. If you have different coloured pens, you can make it look really eye-catching.

We can all watch our hearts fill with gratitude for the things that make life good! You might want to take a picture and share it with someone else.

Future Services in the Church Building

There are in-building services planned for 21st March, and 4th and 18th April, but we will confirm nearer the time whether these will go ahead. Services on Zoom and distribution of [Worship@Home](#) sheets will continue whatever happens about gathering in the building.

Action for Children

A big thank you to everyone who gave so generously to Action for Children at Christmas. £155 was raised in lieu of Christmas cards and £150 was donated at the Church services on 20th December and Christmas Day. With an additional £57.50 from Gift Aid the total raised was £362.50. Your continued support at this time is greatly appreciated.

Alison Lambert, Treasurer

Spotlight on..... Cynthia Best

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 was born in Sheffield during the War. My father was a teacher so wasn't away in the forces, he was an Air Raid Warden instead. One of my earliest memories was having two teachers living with us who had been evacuated from London. As a family we went to Stephen Hill Methodist Church in Crosspool near where we lived. I went to Sunday School and we all went to Church in the evening. I joined the Brownies then Guides it was during this time that my father died I was 9 years old. I became a Sunday School teacher in the Primary department. I joined the Youth Club at 14 and after a couple of years a new boy joined who'd moved from Leeds to Sheffield, his name was John. I was 16 he was 18. We were married 5 years later. We both became Youth Club leaders. A band used to play at our socials and practice in our church hall. It was Joe

Cocker (Blues singer famous for 'Love lift us up where we belong') and his band.

In 1968 we moved to Nettleham, a village on the outskirts of Lincoln. We joined the local Methodist Church taking our young daughter with us. Village life seemed so different because the pace of life appeared a lot slower but we soon became involved. Church Class meetings were held in people's homes so a group met in our home. I became a teacher in Junior Church. John and I became Youth Club leaders on different evenings. An inter-denominational choir was formed which I joined. Our conductor was a Nun who was very charismatic. We sang in Lincoln Cathedral performing 'If my People' and 'Come Together', Christian musicals by Jimmy Owens and sang in many areas of Lincolnshire. There was a great time of revival happening. The American singing group 'The Fisherfolk' came to England and we were privileged to have three of the group stay in our home. We saw God at work in many lives at this time.

In 1982 we moved to Leeds when John was offered a job here and joined Cross Gates Methodist Church where we were welcomed at the door by Horace Lumb. Our 3 girls joined Sunday School. We joined the Wednesday at 8 group and fellowship groups were meeting so we had a Monday evening one at our house. We had about 12 people join us several of whom were local preachers so took it in turns to lead the Bible Study. After a few years Keith Walker led the group and we studied different books of the Bible in depth. When Barbara Thompson resigned as Pastoral Secretary she asked me if I would take over and I felt that this was something I was called to do so I accepted and I still love doing this job. I've been a joint leader of the Wednesday Group and when Linda gave up producing the Newsletter Trevor and I took the job on. We were so pleased to pass this to Tracy after 12 years when we couldn't manage it any more.

During this pandemic I think it has been very important to keep in touch with people by phone and to take out the church service sheets to people who are unable to join in the zoom services.

Remember that God is with us in everything we do. Please stay safe.

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)

Memories of Joyce Stead & Joanne Marks

We have lost two of our much loved Church members in recent weeks – Joyce Stead and Joanne Marks. Both I have known for over 65 years. We met in Junior Church and our marvellous youth club in the 1950s; along with scores of other teenagers. Joyce lived on Manston Drive and then Manston Gardens and Joanne (or Joan Miles as she was then) lived on Park Avenue. Both girls attended Roundhay High School.

Joyce's ambitions were to become a school teacher and a local preacher – both of which she achieved. Although she trained in home economics she spent many years teaching RE. The home economics training led to Joyce regularly cooking for and organising Church functions and cooking for individuals. She was also a good organiser when it came to the Church kitchen. She was a Church steward for four years.

Joanne taught in the primary department of Sunday School but when she left home and moved to another part of Leeds she had a break from attending our Church. She returned a few years later. Joanne collected old sewing machines to send abroad to third world charities. She took a group of elderly ladies out regularly for outings. Joanne was a keen member of the Church rambling club.

Michael Teal with help from Mary Teal

Joyce was a caring and enthusiastic Guide Captain. I have a lovely photo of my daughter, Ruth, wearing the Queen's Guide Badge and holding her certificate taken at the front of the Church. A sincere thank you to Joyce for her teaching and leadership. ***Beryl Gledhill***

When I joined the 2nd Crossgates Guides in 1968 Joyce Stead was Guide Captain. She was strict and scary but dedicated to teaching the Guides life skills and standards as well as ensuring they enjoyed themselves in the process. My memories of that time are very happy and in later years I often reminisced with Joyce about those days and particularly about the annual camps. I am so grateful that she introduced me to camping something I love doing to this day. When I was older we became friends and I was pleased to work closely with her when we were both Church Stewards. ***Linda Booth***

I really only got to know Joyce when she asked me if she could transfer her membership back to Cross Gates Church, but others can tell about her time as a young person in the church here, her time as a preacher and as the Guide Captain ...and her career as a teacher of Domestic Science and then Religious Studies. When we got to know Joyce she was retired, enjoying her garden, baking and decorating cakes - and when she came back to Cross Gates she brought with her all of those talents and

more. She renewed old friendships and took on new responsibilities, bringing her own style and way of doing things! Bob and I remember especially how keen she was to help us organize those coach trips to France and Belgium and Holland; many will recall her sorting out their travel insurance – and we all remember her making sure that our ‘trolley dollies’ had coffee and biscuits to serve on the coach. The three of us had such fun planning those trips! Joyce became a good friend; she came to see us in France – and we took her to Switzerland to revisit places she had taken school groups. One phrase we’ll never forget from those walks home from the station in Lauterbrunnen – and which I use from time to time – came when Joyce declared ‘I’m just putting one foot in front of another’, making us realize that she really was tired!! We remember with gratitude her welcome whenever we called to see her, the lovely banter and teasing between Joyce and her adopted son Nicky, whom she loved so much ... and those last times we spent with her (with Helen’s blessing) in the Residential Home, before COVID, sharing photos of the past to prompt her memory and laughing together as we tried to explain how we could take a ‘selfie’ of the three of us. She enriched our lives in so many ways – and we thank God for her friendship. **Joyce Nicholson**

We will always remember Joyce as a real pillar of our Church at Cross Gates – always cheerful and welcoming. John was fortunate to work with her as Church Steward and found her in this time to be super efficient, industrious and considerate, more importantly a real team player always thinking and planning how to move the Church and Worship forward. She was a caring Pastoral visitor. Joyce together with Rev Nicholson, arranged 4 Church trips for the members of Cross Gates and Seacroft, using Godsons coaches. Cynthia and I were fortunate to go on 3 of these - Bruges, Lisieux and Antwerp. The trips were well organised and we had a great time thanks to the leaders. A real chance to meet and get to know the other members. On John’s 70th birthday Joyce used all her culinary skills to bake and ice a cake – with figures and symbols of things he was interested in – The Church – MHA – Leeds Rhinos – Rambling – Footpath Ranger, all made skilfully in icing. Many happy memories.

John and Cynthia Best

I have many happy memories of Church and walking with Joanne with the Rambling Club. A clue to her interest of rambling and the countryside was her email address which started ‘Hiker Marks’. I remember Joanne usually wore a fur hat in winter & distinctive blue baseball cap in summer plus light coloured trousers. I was always amazed how – when doing a spot of ‘bog trotting’ – she kept the trousers so clean while I was muddy up to my knees! The Rambling Club organized a week’s walking holiday

every year and in May 2007 this was organised by Joanne, based on Goodrington, with 17 members attending. We enjoyed walking around Dartmouth, Slapton, Michelcombe and Dartmoor. Joanne enjoyed the challenge of long distance walks. She completed the 3 Peaks more than once and usually took part in the annual Wheatfields Hospice challenge. I remember doing the Mosaic Meander (21 mile) in 2009, The Wharfe Valley Experience (26 miles) in 2010 and the Timble Trail (21 miles) in 2011 with her. She was a good person to be with on the hard miles!

John Best

Joanne so bravely carried on her life after the major operation she had. She was an active member of the Crossgates Walking Group and I had many interesting conversations with her on these walks. I enjoyed the visits to her home and was always made welcome by her and Geoffrey, not forgetting Carly the abandoned dog she rescued and cared for. Joanne had a bungalow at Torquay and I shared a happy holiday there with her and Bryan, a member of the walking group, and his wife Marguerite. Just loving thoughts of Joanne. **Beryl Gledhill**

In 2010 Joanne was celebrating her 70th birthday. She had booked afternoon tea at the Devonshire Arms for family and a few friends and wanted to arrive in style. My husband, Paul, had a private helicopters pilots license at the time so Joanne asked if it would be possible to fly there. Originally it was supposed to her and Jeffrey - her husband - but he was reluctant to fly so Simon - her son - stepped in. We met at Sherburn Airfield and set off for Bolton Abbey. On arrival at the Devonshire Arms we landed and met up with the others who had travelled there by car. As Paul and I were getting ready to leave to go for a fly around the countryside Joanne stopped us and insisted that we joined them. That was so typical of her generosity. We had a wonderful convivial afternoon tea with her family and friends who made us welcome. Afterwards we took some photos before taking off again to fly over Simons Seat and then back to Sherburn. It was a lovely day which we often talked about. She will be missed. **Amanda Brow**

*The Israelite prophet Micah said: 'What does the Lord require of you?
Only to act justly, love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.'*

Leeds South & East Foodbank
helping local people in crisis

Because of your increased donations, we now deliver food/toiletries twice a month to Leeds South & East (Trussell Trust) Food Distribution Centre, which supplies 10 local food banks.

Urgently required at the moment are *Coffee, tinned potatoes and vegetables, tinned meat and fish, tinned rice pudding and juice either in carton or bottle to dilute*. It is stressed, however, any tinned or packeted food / toiletries are very welcome and everything is used.

Our Church, plus Tranquility Court and friends, donated 12 food baskets in January.

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

A message from Christian Aid

We've all felt the distressing effects of coronavirus and lived through the overwhelming uncertainty of the pandemic. Some of us are grieving for loved ones we have lost. But with the development of the vaccine we now have hope and we give thanks for all the NHS staff and key workers who continue to save lives across the UK.

As more of our family, friends, and neighbours receive their vaccine, we are both joyful and relieved. But we are aware that many communities around the world are suffering and don't have access to vaccines. And many of them lack the basics they need to protect themselves like clean water for handwashing.

Many people have asked if they can donate in thankfulness for the vaccine they have received, recognising that for the poorest and most vulnerable communities around the world, there is little hope of a vaccine rollout. As you or a family member is protected, please consider giving to help provide the basics, like clean water for handwashing to those who don't have access to vaccines. All donations will support Christian Aid's response to the coronavirus pandemic in affected communities. You could help deliver essential soap and hygiene kits to the people who need them most and help train more frontline workers to share vital healthcare messages.

As we take the time to reflect on the past year, and give thanks for the hope the vaccine brings, please pray for your global neighbours around

the world for whom the coronavirus pandemic is far from over. Thank you for your ongoing support and prayers.

Your Financial Contributions: Thank you to all those who have continued to contribute to the Church's running costs. Please continue sending 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: 18th March, 22nd April.

Thanks: I would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who helped with the knitting which enabled over 200 people to receive a knitted cross. Thanks to the knitters and the people who helped me deliver them.

Barbara

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.

Pastoral message from the President & Vice-President: 0808 281 2695

Content is updated weekly on a Thursday evening.

Congratulations and best wishes: to Holly Wiles who will celebrate her 21st birthday on 3rd March

Condolences: To Simon, family and friends of Joanne Marks who died on the 10th February.

Please remember in your thoughts and prayers the family and friends of Joyce Stead who will be greatly missed by so many people.

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.

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