



**CROSSGATES  
METHODIST CHURCH  
Newsletter  
February 2021**

MINISTER: Rev Helen White

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**New Year, new ...**

Fill in the ... for yourself. I'm going to go with new start - after all that's why many people make resolutions at this time of year. I'm sure many of us are hoping that this year will be new and different from the last one, though we will probably have to go through some more difficult months first.

At the start of this new year, we will have had opportunity to renew our Covenant, as we do each year. Those of you who are formal members of the Methodist Church will receive your membership tickets - though perhaps not quite the way you usually do. (If you have never been formally received into the Methodist Church, or you're not sure, and want to know more, please ask me.)

With your membership tickets this year, you will receive a Methodist Way of Life card, referred to in the Worship at Home material for Covenant Sunday. As you look at this, and think prayerfully about the Covenant we renew, I invite you to consider what has helped you on your journey of faith. As we think about a new start for the new year, keep an ear and eye open for Bible verses or stories which are, or become, important to you. Perhaps the new start could involve trying a different way of praying, or a new set of Bible notes, or ... Do share with us what you find helpful, whether its walking in a particular place, listening to music (tell us which pieces/hymns), a book that's been useful...

Over to you. Let's help one another on our journey through the coming year, sharing what we learn and encouraging each other to grow as disciples of Christ.

May we all know God's blessing on us, as we start this new year.

**“Go out into the darkness and put your hand in the Hand of God.  
That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way.”  
Minnie Louise Haskins (1875-1957)**

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### **Services in the Church Building**

The Covid response group has met to review whether we should be open for worship during this new lockdown, as the government have left it to individual places of worship to make the decision. We have agreed that we won't open in January, but will review again early February. This decision has been taken in the light of the increasing infection rates, alongside the knowledge that January is likely to be very cold and possibly icy making it difficult for those who would want to come to do so.

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### **Stewardship & Envelopes**

I have taken over the responsibility of the Stewardship Recorder from Michael Teal and this includes distributing the envelopes. If anyone is an envelope user and has moved in the last 12 months or if you would like to commit to a weekly or monthly offering using an envelope please let me know as soon as possible. If you would like to change to contributing via standing order (this might be easier for some while services are disrupted) please do get in touch. I can be contacted by email [amandajbrow@gmail.com](mailto:amandajbrow@gmail.com)

**Thank you, Amanda Brow.**

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### **Leeds South & East Foodbank helping local people in crisis**

In December, our Church - with help from Tranquility Court - donated 14 containers of food/toiletries to the food bank distribution centre. This was the largest monthly amount we have given.

We are told by the Manager that any type of tinned food/toiletries can be used and everything is distributed. However, at the moment they are short of *coffee, tinned potatoes and vegetables, tinned fish, tinned meat, tinned custard, tinned rice pudding, dilute/long life juice.*

**If you would like to contribute food/toiletries please contact John Best by email [jvbest39@hotmail.com](mailto:jvbest39@hotmail.com) who will gladly collect.**

## Dignity in Destitution

What a year 2020 turned out to be. LEDAS (Leeds Destitute Asylum-seekers Support) came about from discussions in meetings held in early May, so that a constitution, a business plan and an application to the Charity Commission were submitted and in record time, in June, we were granted Charitable status.

From then on we networked and forged links with many other charities and agencies working for the same client group. Eventually, after the initial lease for the hostel was extended from the original 6 months to the end of November; LEDAS together with Leeds City Council and PAFRAS (Positive Action for Refugees and Asylum Seekers) drew up an agreement for us to work together, in the best interests of the group of the men who had to leave the hostel.

Exactly 8 months to the day, since the Council took the men into their care, on the 25<sup>th</sup> November we moved them back into our care, in 2 houses in Harehills, Leeds, preventing them from becoming street homeless. We feel we are moving towards our residents having the opportunity to live independently, for example, they are enjoying having privacy, a key to the door and being able to cook for themselves, what they want and when they want to eat. They have the time to gather new evidence whilst pursuing their claim for leave to remain. Once successful, we can then look at new referrals to our houses.

This is just the beginning of our work, as these properties, from two private landlords, are short term lets. Currently we are exploring a more permanent solution and looking for suitable accommodation.

Fundraising is always a perennial task but with the current climate it is proving more difficult. We are looking for two 4 bedroom properties in Leeds that ideally could be donated or bought for our use and perhaps let to us on a peppercorn rent. We would maintain them internally, provide insurance and pay the utilities. We have received many offers of help both financially and practically; it is humbling knowing that others want to be involved too.

How can you help? Have you considered giving a regular amount, monthly/ annually? **Tony Pickles, Trustee of LEDAS, Tel: 0113 2600844 Email: [info@ledas.org.uk](mailto:info@ledas.org.uk) Website: <https://www.ledas.org.uk>**

## **Memories of Kath Harwood**

You wondered if we had any memories of Kath Harwood and one that makes me laugh, is when Kath came to the Ladies Friendship to tell us about going to Palestine to visit the orphanages, with money tucked in her knickers! Also how she gave the Israeli border guards a bit of what she thought too! Just the other month something came up about Palestine and how their industries are being depleted and I bought a scarf made in Palestine, only two places now able to make them. Appropriately the pattern is called Bethlehem. **Pauline Brown**

Kathleen and I grew up together. Kath's parents and maternal grandmother were friends in their younger days with my parents, and grandparents, attending Woodhouse Street Methodist Church. One of my many memories of times spent with both Kath and her sister Margaret, was Christmas carol rehearsals at Youth Club on the two Friday evenings before Christmas Eve. Kath's father, Arthur and Mother May, both of whom latterly were members of Cross Gates, came to Youth Club to help us sing "properly" before we went out and on Christmas Eve about 20 of us duly went out. Kath and Margaret both had tuning forks to meet us in tune and Kath conducted. At Easter we went on Club hikes with Kath leading the singing all round the Dales. Happy Days. **Mary Teal**

1962 – I started teaching in Sunday School when I was sixteen. Kath (the Evans) and her husband were new to our Church and we were both in Juniors. She asked me if I would babysit for them so I went with my boyfriend (Mel Thomas, son of Godfrey and Dorothy Thomas) to their house in Manston to look after their children. So sorry to hear of Kath's passing. **Gill Thomas**

Kath had a camper van when she was a single parent with three young children. It was not easy so she put a notice up on the caravan site asking if any other single parents had problems. To her surprise she received many replies and a group was formed. This even resulted in one (or more) weddings. She was also a 'Street Angel' in Central Leeds on a Saturday evening. **Beryl Gledhill**

My memory of Kath Harwood ((Mrs Evans as I always knew her) was one particular day in the school holidays when I was probably about 10 or 11 years old. I and some other members of Junior Church spent what seemed like hours in the School Room with her practising the Zither Carol. I can still see her standing in front of us, she was elevated, I think she was standing on a chair and trying to get us to sing the carol in a way that she approved of. Each time we sang a couple of lines she would

shout STOP and then demonstrate the correct way to sing it pronouncing every word precisely. I just remember it taking ages and I'm not sure she was entirely satisfied with the end result. I still think of her fondly when I sing the Zither Carol and still not sure I can sing it the 'Kath Harwood' way. **Jennifer Heap**

My memory of Kath Harwood goes back to 1966 or thereabouts. We had to meet at 'The Gem' (now Chiltern mills and Mecca Bingo). We were about a dozen JMA collectors from Crossgates Methodist Sunday School and Kath was taking us to the JMA rally at Oxford Place Chapel in the centre of Leeds. Going on a bus to town without our parents was exciting enough but being with all those children from other Methodist Churches for an afternoon of activities then sharing a final act of worship is something I have never forgotten. **Linda Booth**

We admired Kath for her enthusiasm in everything she was involved. She was the conscience of our Church and to her **PEOPLE MATTERED**. She was never afraid to speak out for Women's Rights, Refugees, the Homeless, Under Privileged, Palestine, Sabeel and PAFRAS. In addition, there was the music she brought to our Church and local area - both in worship and Concerts. Her wisdom and faith shone through in our meetings and study groups. Kath will be missed by so many people. **John and Cynthia Best**

Donations in memory of Kath Harwood are for PAFRAS (Positive Action for Refugees and Asylum Seekers). If people wish to donate online please do so by visiting [givey.com/in memory of Kath Harwood](https://givey.com/in-memory-of-Kath-Harwood) For those who would prefer, please make out your cheques to PAFRAS (Positive Action for Refugees and Asylum Seekers) and put in an envelope marked in memory of Kath Harwood and send it to Linda Booth who will then send all the donations to PAFRAS.

### **A Prayer for the Bereaved**

*For all those who woke this morning to the loneliness of bereavement - the empty bed or chair, an unaccustomed quietness, a life now incomplete.*

*May they know your presence in the stillness of the day, and through the love of friends who offer condolence.*

*And in the darker moments may they reach out to hold your hand and feel the warmth of the One who has already passed from death to life to welcome others into God's Kingdom. **Amen***

## **Spotlight on..... Linda Booth**

*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 lived my entire life within a mile of Crossgates Methodist Church. I have attended the Church for almost 60 years and been a confirmed member for nearly 50 years. As a child I was part of a large and thriving Sunday School which in the early sixties took place on a Sunday afternoon. We would only join in a full Church service on special occasions like Harvest Festival, Church Anniversary and Prizegiving. I progressed through Sunday School becoming a JMA collector and joining the Brownies and Junior Youth Club. By the age of 15 I had completed my "training" and become a Sunday School teacher myself, starting in the Upper Juniors with a class of around 8 children in a department of around 40! I was already helping at Brownies and went on to qualify as a Young Leader when I was 17.

After completing my A Levels I spent 15 months away from Crossgates when I lived and worked in Horton-in-Ribblesdale in the Yorkshire Dales. Crossgates was still my home Church though and I made a surprise visit home in September 1975 to see the Young People's Department production of Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat which I would have been a part of if I had not gone away to work.

As many of you know the Young People's Department of Junior Church flourished during the 70s and early 80s with more than 70 teenagers filling the gallery on a Sunday morning and attending Youth Club on a Friday night. Sometimes members of the group shared in the leading of worship and each year we organised a Christmas party and summer outing for disadvantaged children from the local area. I was privileged to be part of the team leading this group. The highlight of the year was the annual youth weekend in Scarborough. We took over the Methodist Guest House, The Cliff and shared in activities and discussion groups which all led to a deepening of our faith and a resolve to "grow up to be what we were meant to be". On Sunday morning we spent an hour in silence which everyone respected and then shared an informal Communion Service.

Around this time I found myself continually being "volunteered" for other roles in Church Life. I was voted on to the Church Council then elected as

a rep to the Circuit meeting. In 1978 I represented the Circuit at the District Synod. I won't go on to list all the various jobs I have had at Crossgates Church. I am sure my story is very similar to that of most people who have lived their whole life as a Methodist.

In 1986 I was married at Crossgates and in 1989 and 1991 respectively my daughters were baptised here. While my children were growing up it was not always easy to attend evening meetings so my commitments changed to helping at coffee mornings and baking for events and other jobs connected with Children's activities. In 1995 I returned to Guiding as Brown Owl and worked towards my Pack Holiday License so that the pack could have annual residential trips away. I was still on the Church Council throughout these years and had been asked several times over the years if I would consider becoming a Steward. In 2005 the time seemed right to say yes and I served what was then the standard 4 year term and returned a couple of years later to do an additional year as Senior Steward.

In 2007 I was called to take on the role of Meeting Point Treasurer. As well as the bookkeeping, this involved working on a small committee to manage all aspects of the café project including the letting of the upstairs flat. I did this job for 10 years and learned a great deal about the problems and concerns of the people of Harehills.

Whilst writing this brief history of my Methodist journey I have been reminded of how thankful I am for the love and support I have received from our Church Family throughout the years.

***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)***

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### **A Prayer**

Listening God,

It is hard not to know what will happen next

whether we are going to grieve or rejoice

what good news might look like

what bad news might imply.

Help us not to rush ahead but to live with unknowing

to dwell in your uncomfortable mystery. *Amen*

**Action for Children – Parent Talk:** In the middle of the first wave of the coronavirus pandemic, Action for Children launched a new service for parents. The advice website and one-to-one chat – Parent Talk – was a response to a growing number of parents needing help and guidance. Parent Talk offers down-to-earth parenting advice, when it's needed. Parents can browse articles on the most common parenting questions, or talk one-to-one with a qualified parenting coach about anything that's worrying them. The charity sees parents come to the service with a range of needs from emotional wellbeing and mental health to behaviour, development and co-parenting.

**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](mailto:tracylouisedick@gmail.com) Deadlines coming up: 18<sup>th</sup> February, 18<sup>th</sup> March 2021, 22<sup>nd</sup> April.

**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.

**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**

*Cross Gates Methodist Church, Austhorpe Road, Cross Gates, Leeds, LS15 8QR*