



**CROSSGATES
METHODIST CHURCH
Newsletter**

MINISTER: Rev Helen White

April 2021

Colour

Colour is on my mind, as I write. I've just been working on the circuit service for 21st March, International Colour Day. As we've travelled through Lent, we've taken a colour for each week, some of us finding an appropriately coloured item to wear for that week.

In addition to all this, we've had a year now where rainbows have been a prominent sign as we've journeyed through the pandemic. It's a journey that's taking us far longer than we imagined last Easter, when we held our first on line services, and got into that routine of sharing worship resources for using at home. Thank you to everyone who has helped with the printing, delivering and technology. And we hope and pray it won't be too much longer before we can gather again in person on a more regular basis. But for now, let's keep our rainbows as a sign of hope, and reflect on the colours and what they remind us of.

Green makes me think of hills and fields, walking in the countryside, and my house at primary school. I think of life when I think of green. Then there is blue for water, and purity, and the colour the Virgin Mary is usually dressed in. With the yellow of the sun, blue suggests good weather, warm days to delight in. The brown of earth, and wood, and I think too of the mud that gets up my legs when walking as the ground gets damper. It can be seen as a dirty colour, but I think it's also a

grounded, 'un-fancy' colour (if there is such a word). And what about red - the colour of passion, my primary school uniform, blood, ripe fruit like tomatoes, strawberries and raspberries...

When I think of those colours in relation to Jesus, each says something about him and his life. Green for the life he brings and yellow for the light of the world. Brown for the carpenter, who came down to earth to live as one of us. Purple for the King of the world and pure blue for the one who lived without sin. Red - for the blood he shed on the cross, and the Communion wine we drink as we remember his death. Then back to green and yellow - the dawn of Easter morning and the new life we have in Jesus.

A whole spectrum which together colour our beautiful world, created by the God who is always with us. Whatever memories are evoked by particular colours, may you remember God's promise to be with us always, whether we are together or apart. It's what I think of when I see a rainbow.

Helen

Donations to PAFRAS

Linda Booth forwarded £275 in memory of Kath Harwood to PAFRAS (Positive Action for Refugees and Asylum Seekers) plus others sent donations directly. The organisation works with refugees, asylum seekers and the wider community to counter the effects of enforced destitution on vulnerable migrants. Their work has three main strands:

- providing immediate humanitarian relief;
- Long term support, advice and advocacy aimed at assisting service users to make lasting improvements to their situations;
- Raising awareness and campaigning locally and nationally on issues affecting service users.

We received an email from Snezhana Martynova who is the finance and monitoring officer for PAFRAS. She wanted to thank everyone who donated money in memory of Kath Harwood to PAFRAS. She said how grateful they were for the donations. Kath would have been delighted.

A message for book lovers

At church there are more than 300 books which you are welcome to borrow. Please contact Lynda for a list of books. After you have made your choice the books will be delivered to your home and collected when you have finished them.

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

As a nation, we know it isn't right that anyone should be left hungry or living in extreme poverty. But whilst we work for long-term change, the network of food banks provides emergency food and compassionate, dignified support to people locked in crisis.

There are over 1,200 food bank centres in the network. The services provided by food banks may vary from area to area as they react to the needs of their community to provide help and support to local people in crisis.

Food donations - Non-perishable, in-date food is donated by the public at a range of places, such as schools, churches, and businesses, as well as supermarket collection points. It is then sorted into emergency food parcels by 28,000 volunteers, to be given to people in crisis.

Food vouchers - Care professionals such as health visitors, staff at schools and social workers identify people in crisis and issue them with a food bank voucher. This means people can receive a food bank parcel of three days' nutritionally balanced, non-perishable food from their local food bank.

Additional support - Our food bank network helps people break free from poverty by providing additional support to help people resolve the crises they're facing so that they don't need to use a food bank again in the future. This could include things like debt advice, mental health support, or benefits guidance. Food banks rely on the support of their local communities to support people in crisis.

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

Spotlight on..... Georgina Cressey

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 on 4th May 1946 at my Grandma's house at Springhead, Anlaby, Hull. I was christened at St Peters Church, Anlaby and when I was around 3 or 4 years old an older girl called Janet from further up our street took me to St Peters Church Sunday School. After some time, I did not like going to St Peters as all my friends went to Anlaby Methodist Church. In the end my mam gave in and let me go to the Methodist Church. From that time I was very happy attending Sunday School throughout my childhood, enjoying anniversaries, prize givings as well as May festivals - where one year I was chosen to be the cushion bearer for the May Queen. Eventually, when aged about 13 I became a member of the Methodist Church and moved into the "Young People's Fellowship". Later on I went onto teaching and being Secretary of the Youth Club and on many occasions went to morning and afternoon YPF sessions and then to the evening service. These were happy and fun filled years where I made many friends.

On leaving school I went to work in an Estate Agents office in Hull and later in 1965 I met Roy – dancing at The Court School of Dancing which was adjacent to the ABC Cinema in Hull. I had gone with my friend Sheila who met her husband on the same evening. I was still attending church through these years although it lapsed a little as I could only see Roy at weekends and once during the week as he lived in Goole. Three years later on June 1st 1968 we were married in Anlaby Methodist Church by the Rev. Ian White (Helen's father).

Sadly Anlaby Methodist Church has now been demolished. My friend, Sheila who I had gone dancing with was a bridesmaid for us and married her husband about a year later. After our marriage we lived in Goole and our daughter Susan was born in 1969 and she was christened at Clifton Gardens Methodist Church in Goole. She was only 9 months old in 1970 when we moved to Leeds where we bought a house in Primrose Gardens, Halton. I was welcomed to Halton Methodist Church by Sylvia Hardy- they were then part of a "Welcome Waggoners Group"-people who welcomed you to a new city and invited you to join the church. This we did and our son Ian was born in 1972 and he was christened at Halton Methodist Church. Both children attended Sunday school in Halton and I

started teaching again with Thelma Grubb. As the children grew up I attended regularly until we moved house to Whitkirk. Susan's friends were all guides at Whitkirk Church so she joined her friends there.

At this time, with the children growing up, we took up rambling with the walks always being on Sundays but I often felt that I could see and feel God's Presence with me as I climbed mountains and hills and saw such wonderful scenery. I eventually completed 25 years as Secretary of the Leeds Holiday Fellowship Walking Club. Due to various reasons I had to give up some of the walks and felt very lost. I felt that I could not just sit at home while Roy was out walking and that is when I prayed for guidance and for God to show me the way. His answer was "Go back to Church"

My friend invited me to go with her to the by now, Christ Church in Halton. Many of my old friends were still there and I attended for a few years until my friend died. Somehow I could not settle and finally Roy said "why don't you go to Crossgates Methodist Church, it is nearer"(we had moved to the Kelmscott's by this time). The buses to Halton also had become a bit hit and miss on a Sunday morning. We attended some of the early Music and Lunch events and Kath Harwood really welcomed us and encouraged us to attend church.

Eventually one Easter Roy and I came for the first time. For a time Roy continued walking whilst I attended Church on my own although I did know Sandy Dickson from our walking days. The Sunday walks finished when Roy resigned from HF Rambling Club and started coming with me to Church and later became a member. I was made so welcome by all at Crossgates Methodist Church and encouraged to help out with activities. A highlight was meeting up again with the Rev. Ian White who married us all those years ago in Anlaby.

Through all the years whether attending church or not my faith has never left me. God is still there through all the good times and the bad, Crossgates Methodist Church has welcomed me home. Thank you everybody.

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)

Reflecting on the Pandemic a year on

The Revd Richard Teal and Carolyn Lawrence, the President and Vice-President of the Methodist Conference have issued this message ahead of anniversary of the first lockdown.

'The past year has asked much of us as individuals, families and communities. For many hundreds of thousands of us it has been a time of immense grief for the loss of loved ones. For others the economic uncertainty and restrictions on our day to day activities have taken a huge toll on mental wellbeing. Others may be living with the effects of long Covid not knowing how long it will last. We pray that this anniversary will be a time of deep reflection, prayer and a time to process all that has passed. We also mark a solemn time in Lent just ahead of Holy Week. As we begin the journey to the cross, let us take comfort in the knowledge that we are never alone, that Jesus is walking with us and that our hope lies in Him.'

We are told to let our light shine, and if it does, we won't need to tell anybody it does. Lighthouses don't fire cannons to call attention to their shining - they just shine" **Dwight L. Moody.**

The great gift of Easter is hope - Christian hope which makes us have confidence in God, in his ultimate triumph and in his goodness and love, which nothing can hide. **Basil Hume**

Our Lord has written the promise of resurrection, not in books alone, but in every leaf in springtime. **Martin Luther**

The best news of the Christian Gospel is that the supremely glorious creation of the universe has acted in Jesus Christ death and resurrection to remove every obstacle between us and himself so that we may find everlasting joy in savouring his infinite beauty. **John Piper**

Do not abandon yourself to despair. We are the Easter people and hallelujah is our song. **Pope John Paul 11**

WORDSEARCH: BOOKS OF THE BIBLE

O	S	K	G	R	N	R	Y	N	N	Y	C	N	H	C
S	F	N	R	E	O	H	S	P	M	S	O	U	Y	S
M	E	B	A	M	N	B	O	O	I	N	L	M	L	H
L	H	G	A	I	R	E	N	J	P	A	O	B	D	A
A	X	N	D	E	T	O	S	A	T	I	S	E	E	I
S	S	T	V	U	R	A	F	I	Q	H	S	R	B	M
P	E	O	H	E	J	K	L	F	S	T	I	S	D	E
L	R	T	T	L	C	V	T	A	D	N	A	Y	R	R
P	H	U	S	U	D	O	X	E	G	I	N	K	A	E
R	E	V	E	L	A	T	I	O	N	R	S	C	H	J
D	B	K	I	S	E	L	C	I	N	O	R	H	C	X
N	H	X	M	A	T	T	H	E	W	C	E	K	U	L
D	A	N	I	E	L	S	W	G	O	J	R	D	X	L
Y	W	S	I	R	E	H	T	S	E	A	O	S	R	O
V	P	G	K	S	V	H	G	I	M	M	M	P	N	N

All words are in straight lines either horizontally, vertically or diagonally.

CHRONICLES

JOHN

COLOSSIANS

JUDGES

CORINTHIANS

LUKE

DANIEL

MARK

DEUTERONOMY

MATTHEW

ESTHER

NUMBERS

EXODUS

PROVERBS

GALATIANS

PSALMS

GENESIS

REVELATION

JEREMIAH

ROMANS

With thanks to Deborah Carter

Your Financial Contributions: Thank you to all those who have continued to contribute to the Church's running costs. This has made a massive difference to our financial position. Please do send your contributions 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: 22nd April, 20th May, 17th June.

Greetings: Betty Christian sends her very best wishes to all her friends at Church.

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