



CROSSGATES METHODIST CHURCH Newsletter May 2021

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Things to come

In May we celebrate the church's birthday in two senses: May 24th is Aldersgate Sunday when we remember John and Charles Wesley's conversions – that moment John Wesley describes in his journal, "I felt my heart strangely warmed. I felt I did trust in Christ, Christ alone for salvation: And an assurance was given me, that he had taken away my sins, even mine, and saved me from the law of sin and death." And why is this a church birthday? Well, without the warmed hearts, the new births of the Wesleys, I suspect we would not have a Methodist Church, and therefore no local church anniversary to celebrate at the appropriate point in the year. The day before, the fourth Sunday of May, is Pentecost Sunday which is often described as the birthday of the worldwide church, the day on which we remember the Holy Spirit coming upon the disciples and giving them the strength to go out and share all that they had learnt from Jesus. Part of anniversaries can be looking back to the good times and giving thanks (with rose tinted spectacles on?) But as well as looking back to what has been, we also need to look forward to what will be. It would be all too easy to spend our time and energy on celebrating what has been or moaning about how things are not what they used to be. Instead, having given thanks for what has been, let us look to the future and ask what God might be wanting from us. Especially this year, with all we've been through in the last 14 months, and the enforced changes. Where does God want to take us next? Is there anything we could be doing? Is there anything we should no longer be doing? How is the Holy Spirit coming upon us, and what is the Spirit preparing us for and enabling us to do? It is not always easy looking to the future – we don't know what it will hold or what God might ask us to do, but in his strength anything is possible. I finish with my reflections on things to come.

The future,
How will it be?
I'd like to know,
Now if you don't mind.
Got no patience
So tell me all that's to come, **now**.

Travel with faith?
Only wait for God?

Can't do that, it's asking too much.
Or is it?
Maybe in God's strength I'll find a way.
Even patience is possible with God.

Services in the Church Building

Services are planned to take place in the Church building at Cross Gates on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month, starting with May, June, July and August. If you wish to attend in person then please book your place via Barbara Lloyd.

On the 1st and 3rd Sundays the service will be held at Colton and can be attended via Zoom. If there is a 5th Sunday in the month then it will be a Zoom service.

Services on Zoom and distribution of Worship@Home sheets will continue whatever happens about gathering in the building.

A Prayer

Listening God,
blow away the cobwebs of our insecurities
make us so sure of your love that we dare to live differently
so confident of a fresh start that we are unafraid of making
mistakes
and so immersed in your Spirit that our doubts can surface and
be aired.
Inspire us to listen and question
until such time as you gather us in, like chicks under your wing.

Church AGM

Due to the pandemic we did not hold a Church Annual General Meeting in 2020 but we plan to have one this year. Depending on the situation this may be held in person or via Zoom. The date and time are not yet agreed but will be publicised via Revd Helen's weekly emails and Barbara's letters. If you do not receive either, please register your interest in knowing the date with Helen, Barbara Lloyd or Tracy Dick and you will be telephoned. To nominate a Church Member to sit on the Church Council then please contact Helen or Barbara. As you know a number of people sit on the Church Council as a result of positions they hold in Church however there are between 6 and 15 elected seats available. Anyone voted onto the Church Council two years ago will need nominating again if they are willing to serve for another year. If you would like more information about serving on the Church Council, please speak to one of the Stewards.

Nominations for Stewards would be very welcome. If you are a Church Member and would like to know more about being a Steward please have a word with Barbara Lloyd, John Blyth or Cedric Robinson.

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

In March your Church plus Tranquility Court, delivered 10 baskets of your donations, to the Leeds South and East Food Bank distribution Centre. This had a total weight of 173Kg and consisted of 284 items covering all types of food, treats and hygiene necessities. Thank You!

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

Jesus looked across the table and asked "So, where have you been in the last few months?"

God replied "I've been all round Yorkshire"

Jesus was shocked. "There's been a pandemic for a year and you've been in Yorkshire!! What were you doing there?"

God smiles and quietly replied "Working from home, son, working from home."

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. This month we are lucky enough to have two contributors. **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)***

Margaret Rhodes

My life started off in Green Lane, Halton but at the age of five my parents moved to Poplar Avenue, Cross Gates. My father's parents lived at the top house of the street. My parents were Church of England and went to Manston Church but it was not well attended at that time, so I went with my friends who went to the Methodist Church, to the Youth Club. I was very happy there, so started to go to the Church and have been there ever since.

My mother started going to the Thursday class and eventually my parents and younger sister Barbara joined the Methodist Church. My brother Bryan remained an Anglican and as he eventually moved to Barwick, went to the Anglican Church. In my younger days I was on the Church Council and was Property Secretary for a few years. There was a spate of youths who did much damage in Cross Gates by going round breaking windows etc and the Church was a target. One weekend we had 24 windows broken around the Church and schoolroom. I also remember when a few of the members of Church helped to take the stage down which was in the schoolroom. What a filthy job that was!

I was a pastoral visitor and still do a couple even now. I was also a member of the rambling club and enjoyed the hikes and holiday we had. I was a regular worshipper at Church until the corona virus came along.

Pauline Timms

I was born in October 1941, when my father was on leave from the Seaforth Highlanders. My parents were members at Brunswick Methodist Chapel in Leeds, where they had been married, and Dr. Leslie Wetherhead agreed to baptise me when I was just over 2 weeks old, so you can say I have been a Methodist for nearly 80 years. Both my sisters were also baptised at Brunswick.

We moved to Harehills in 1948 and immediately joined Trinity Methodist Chapel on Roundhay Road. You could easily direct people there because

it was the Chapel with 'wayside pulpits'. At Trinity I attended Sunday School until 16 years of age. I also became a Sunday School teacher, and with the help of our Sunday School Superintendant was awarded my Philip, Lord Wharton Bible, which I still have.

I became a Brownie at 7 years of age and a Guide at 11. My Guide Captain was Joan Todhunter. I always say without her my interest in Guiding would not have been where I am today. On leaving Guides I became Assistant Cub Leader of the 1st NE Crusaders, and then I became Akela, and was connected with the Crusaders for around 25 years. I had to resign because of work commitments. In 2000 I joined SE Leeds Trefoil Guild (Guiding), have been Chair twice and now just a member – no more District and County meetings to go to. There are 11 of us and usually meet monthly. Obviously we have not met the last year but our Chair rings all of us up on what would be our meeting. We have done many activities and spent 4 days away at various Guide sites (sleeping in dormitories) and also cooking on wood fires outside.

On 1st January 1960 I joined the staff of the Leeds Magistrates Courts in Leeds Town Hall, when I retired I had been there for 33 years. I began as a shorthand typist and progressed through the service, later becoming a Court Clerk and finally back to Administration to help with the dreaded 'computer'. We saw many people through the courts. One memory was going into the Assize Court and listening to the death sentence being passed on a prisoner in 1961. He was the last person to be hanged at Armley Jail. I enjoyed my time in the Courts but I was glad I retired when I did.

At this time I was still attending Trinity Chapel, where we had Howard Smith as one of our Ministers. The building was getting old and had to be demolished. June, my sister, had moved up to Crossgates and we both joined Crossgates and brought June's two children to Sunday School, and have stayed here ever since. I never told anyone about my past as a Sunday School Teacher, Guiding and Scouting. I just wanted to come and worship and have no responsibilities. I later became a member of the Church Council and the Devotional Class.

I have missed coming on a Sunday to Service, but I thank Barbara for forwarding me Services every week, Church Magazine and other literature. Without that I would have found it difficult in lockdown, as where I live we are not allowed to socialise. I join in reading the morning Service at 10.30am on a Sunday, along with June, Beryl, Margaret and Jean and Harry Drake.

I have always found myself nearer to God in Psalm 121: 'I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help'.

Supporting wellbeing through Mental Health First Aid Training

The pandemic has created a mental health crisis for many across the country. Carla Quenet, Learning & Development Officer for the Yorkshire Plus Region, explains why the Methodist Church is supporting Mental Health First Aid training.

It is well documented that 1 in 4 people will experience mental ill health in any given year. Mental ill health often impacts not only the individual but also on those who offer support, such as family, friends and work colleagues. However while it is extremely prevalent in society, it's still a taboo subject. Good mental health and its role within our whole wellbeing is something that I am passionate about and I see the Church as being a place of hope, encouragement, empowerment and support in facilitating the de-stigmatisation of mental ill health and recognising and responding to mental health needs, both within the Church and the wider community.

To enable this, I believe that people will feel better equipped to act and deliver intervention, if they are empowered through appropriate training and in turn, it is evident that their own mental health also improves in doing so. Mental Health First Aid training provides a tool for people to better understand the signs and symptoms of some mental health issues and help individuals with a mental health issue, including how and where to signpost individuals.

The training is about equipping the public to respond and it helps:

- create a culture which is less likely to stigmatise because of a better understanding
- provide individuals with more confidence to deal with mental ill health issues
- people to signpost and know when medical intervention is critical
- provide a better understanding of other's mental health

The Methodist Church, through external and internal funding is in the process of arranging training for a number of Mental Health First Aid instructors to deliver this training. Following training the instructors will subsequently roll out the Mental Health First Aid training, allowing people to have access to this brilliant and extremely informative course. I believe that in doing so, this will help the Church to better respond to, and offer a compassionate and empathetic understanding to people who are suffering with mental ill health and help the Church to live out our command in an informed way to love our neighbours. I can't wait for this popular training to be widely available within the Church. **Carla Quenet**

Condolences to Ann Martin and family on the death of her daughter, Jacqueline. Please remember the whole Martin family and Jacqueline's husband Richard, in your thoughts and prayers.

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.

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.

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. If you would like to change to contributing via **standing order** (this might be easier for some while services are disrupted) please get in touch with Amanda Brow. email amandajbrow@gmail.com

Newsletter: Please email contributions for the Newsletter to Tracy Dick tracylouisedick@gmail.com Deadlines coming up: 20th May, 17th June.

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

From Barbara Lloyd Senior Steward

Please give this some consideration

Now we are gradually increasing the numbers who can come to the 'in building services' with a view to returning to normal worship, we are looking at all the ways we can improve ways of keeping everyone safe. We realised that though we have addresses of all our members and adherents, we do not have any contact details of next of kin or someone we should call in the event of one of our worshippers feeling ill while at church.

If you would like to give us the phone number of a friend or relative we could contact should you feel ill at church, please would you complete the section below. You would need to check with this person that they are willing for us to have their number and stress to them that these numbers would be securely kept in the church safe and in the secure filing cabinet in the Minister's office, and would not be used for any purpose other than to contact them in the case of an emergency.

Your Name.....
.....

Your Contact's Name.....
.....

Your Contact's Phone Number(s).....
.....

Relationship (eg relative/friend).....
.....

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY!

**Please return this form to Barbara Lloyd or Cynthia Best
(or bring it with you if attending an 'in building' service)**