



**CROSSGATES  
METHODIST CHURCH  
Newsletter  
June 2021**

MINISTER: Rev Helen White

Tel: (0113) 260 5254

**Mark**

June is marked in many Methodist churches as Bible month. That is not saying that we only look at the Bible in June. Rather, it gives us an opportunity to focus on one book of the Bible and follow it through, rather than reading short passages from all different places. Last year we looked at Ruth; this time it is Mark. How are we going to tackle a whole Gospel in a month? By looking at some parts during worship and in small groups, and challenging ourselves to set aside time to read the whole book through at some point. It's the shortest, and the oldest of the Gospels so shouldn't take too long. Here's the summary from the Bible Society website:

“Mark's Gospel, like all of the gospels, tells the story of the life and ministry of Jesus Christ. Mark's Gospel places a particular emphasis both on discipleship and on walking the way of the cross in the footsteps of Jesus. Strikingly it neither has any birth narratives (it begins abruptly with the message of John the Baptist) nor any real resurrection narratives – since the women, arriving at the tomb, find it empty and are asked to go and proclaim Jesus' resurrection to the disciples in Galilee but instead they ran away afraid.

Mark's Gospel has a few alternative endings. The original manuscripts end at 16.8 but later manuscripts provide both an extra shorter and an extra longer ending. Their style is so different, however, that it seems unlikely that they are original.”

There will be a Bible Study group meeting on Monday evenings in June (7, 14, 21 and 28). This will be on Zoom. You could also use the material to have a conversation with a friend - on the phone or even in person if you are both happy to do that. Please contact Helen White if you would

like copies of the Bible Study material, and/or the Bible Society short introductory material on Mark (or download here [https://www.biblesociety.org.uk/content/bible\\_book\\_club/book\\_downloads/mark.pdf](https://www.biblesociety.org.uk/content/bible_book_club/book_downloads/mark.pdf))

I hope you enjoy your journey with Mark.  
Helen

---

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

The in-building services are going well. We have now increased the numbers that can come slightly, though everyone is still socially distanced, we now use both transepts and the balcony if necessary. We are still being very cautious and following all the guidelines set by Government and the Methodist Church.

Most of the people that come are the same each service and they have quickly got used to the procedure, there is usually no queuing and the atmosphere is peaceful and uplifting. We can join in with responses to prayers but we still cannot sing and when we may be able to is still unclear. If 'not singing' is the only reason you are not coming, please give it a try, we have the words on the screen and we can hear the music and to me, the words seem a lot more meaningful when we have time to read them properly and Christine and Richard find lovely music.

If you decide to come to Church please ring me on the number below and leave a message if I am not in. Zoom is great and was a great substitute for worship when we could not meet or if for any reason you are unable to get to church, but nothing beats meeting up with our church family. The worship at home material will continue.

The services at Cross Gates remain the second and fourth Sundays of each month and at Colton on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>. If there is a 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in the month it is on zoom. All except one service in this three month period will be led by Helen

I hope we can all meet up soon.

Love and prayers, Barbara Lloyd (0113 2643134)

## **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.

We are still not able to make a final decision on the date and format of the AGM but hope to make a decision after the changes expected in June

*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**

Thanks to everyone who supported our collection of Food and Toiletries for the Leeds South and East Food Banks in April. We were able to deliver 13 baskets of food/toiletries weighing a massive 206Kg and comprising 419 individual items. All gratefully received!

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

---

*A little boy attended a Church service for the first time with his Grandmother. When the collection plate was passed along the pews, Grandmother put some coins in it. The little boy piped up: "I'm not five yet Gran – you needn't pay for me."*

## **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 again lucky enough to have two contributors.*

### **Dorothy Tate**

I went to Sunday School at Zion Chapel, where I met Alan when we were 8 years old. I taught in Sunday School and was in the Youth Club. When Zion closed we joined with Bourne and became Newbourne, where we were married. We helped run the Youth Club. We came to Cross Gates Church when our daughter Janet was 3 so she could go to Sunday School with her cousins. When it changed to morning Sunday School I took over the Beginners Department with my sister Muriel. We had about 40 children between 3 years and starting school with 10 helpers. Later I became only the second female Steward and had a good 4 years. I am a member of the Wednesday Group and Devotional Class. After the sad death of Betty Hill, I took over as leader of the Devotional Class and was still leading the group when we had lockdown.

### **Christine Holdstock**

I was born in Park Hospital Davyhulme Manchester (the first NHS hospital). My grandfather was a Methodist minister, he was appointed in 1951 to Davyhulme (Wesley) Methodist Church where my father was a member, and so my parents met. I was baptised and grew up in that Church, I attended Junior Church and became a JMA collector. Every year there was a JMA Gala day where the girl who had collected the most JMA money in the year was crowned the JMA queen, I was very proud to be the JMA queen when I was 10 years old. Later I became a Junior Church teacher and a Member of the Methodist Church.

While I was at University I met Richard and a few years later we were married at Davyhulme (Wesley). I was offered a job at Wira (the Wool Industries Research Association) on Headingley Lane and we moved to Leeds, living first in Rothwell and then Whinmoor. We came to Cross Gates Methodist Church when our daughter Jennie was a baby and she

was baptised here by Rev. Ken Taylor. In due course she joined Junior Church and became a JMA collector - I offered to help with JMA and soon after was asked to be JMA secretary - a role I still have 25 years later! Over the years I have become more involved in Church life, helping with Junior Church, Messy Church and more recently with the technical aspects - operating the hymnal and computer. A few years ago, after I had read from the Bible during a service by Rev. Susan Greenhart, she said to me "Have you ever thought about becoming a local preacher?". "Oh no" I said, but the thought stayed with me and a couple of years ago when I heard that there was going to be a Circuit course for preparing people to be worship leaders I felt called to join. The course involved much more than I was expecting and I learnt a great deal. I am pleased to have recently completed the course and I am looking forward to helping with services in the future.

**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)**

---

### **LEAD CHURCH – SAXTON (Proper name St Mary's Chapel)**

This is a tranquil, peaceful, place, situated in a field 200 yards from the 'Crooked Billet Pub' on the B1217 to the East of Lotherton Hall. It was built near the Manor House of the Tyas family in the 12<sup>th</sup> Century and is mentioned in the account of the battle of Towton which was the bloodiest battle fought on British soil. All other buildings have long since gone – just the uneven field surface shows where they once were.

Although it appears closed, the Chapel has been open to visitors right through the coronavirus epidemic. Just lift the latch by putting your finger through the circular latch hole in the door .... and be amazed by the beauty, peace and reverence felt inside.

Locally known as the Ramblers Church, it was saved and repaired by local ramblers in 1931 who still hold services there.

This year's service will be on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> August at 2.30pm. Prior to this there will be an open day starting at 11am in partnership with 'The Frei Compagnie ': a re-enactment group who specialise in Medieval history. Finishes 4pm

## **Presidency adapts to life under lockdown**

The Revd Richard Teal and Carolyn Lawrence, our President and Vice-President, have had a year of office like no other. The pandemic has restricted face-to-face visits across the Connexion, but they have reached thousands of people virtually. In addition to their formal diary commitments, weekly Facebook Lives (facebook.com/Methodist Presidency) have reached over 26,000 users. Over 11,500 visits have been made to their blog and 450 calls since January to their free phone line reflection (0808 281 2695). The Presidency has been agile in responding to new circumstances in the most challenging of times.

## **Methodist Youth President Election Results**

Daud Irfan from Cardiff will become the next Youth President following an election held online in December as part of 3Generate365 (the Methodist Children and Youth Assembly). He will be appointed for the connexional year 2021/2022 at a service this autumn. He commented 'I would like to thank all the children and young people who took part in the voting process. The focus on my year will be on God's Church being a home for all'.

---

## **A Prayer**

God of all hope we call on you today.  
We pray for those who are living in fear:  
Fear of illness, fear for loved ones, fear of other's reactions to them.  
May your spirit give us a sense of calmness and peace.

We pray for your Church in this time of uncertainty.  
For those people who are worried about attending worship.  
For those needing to make decisions in order to care for others.  
For those who will feel more isolated by not being able to attend.  
Grant us your wisdom.

Holy God, we remember that you have promised that  
Nothing will separate us from your love – demonstrated to us in Jesus  
Christ.  
Help us turn our eyes, hearts and minds to you.  
Amen

**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)**

**Condolences** Our thoughts and prayers are with Amanda, Alison and Andrea and families on the death of their father Peter Lambert . Peter was a member of Colton Methodist Church and so our prayers are also with his friends there. Our thoughts and prayers are with Iris Pickersgill on the sudden death of her husband Bob.

**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. She can be contacted, email [amandajbrow@gmail.com](mailto:amandajbrow@gmail.com)

**Newsletter:** Please email contributions for the Newsletter to Tracy Dick [tracylouisedick@gmail.com](mailto:tracylouisedick@gmail.com) Deadlines coming up: 20<sup>th</sup> May, 17<sup>th</sup> 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**

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