



# CROSSGATES METHODIST CHURCH Newsletter July 2021

MINISTER: Rev Helen White  
Tel: (0113) 260 5254

## Crowds

I'm writing this on the day the Prime Minister told us it would be at least four more weeks before the restrictions could be lifted. I'm guessing some folk will be relieved and some frustrated. We're also working our way through Mark's Gospel during June. There are quite a number of scenes involving a crowd gathering. Think of the 5,000 gathered who shared 5 loaves and 2 fish; the crowd who followed Jesus round the lake; who brought people to be healed; the crowd gathered round Jesus when the woman reached out and touched him. Still to come at the moment are the entry into Jerusalem, the trial before Pilate and the crucifixion.

Each of those crowds probably felt a little bit different. Some crowds are good to be part of - there's a sense of excitement; a shared joy in music or sport. Others can be scary - when violence starts at a football match; when you are small and can't see over the people; when the crowd seems to have a mind of its own, sweeping you along where you didn't intend to go.

I think that it's going to be like that as restrictions ease. Sometimes we'll find it exciting. We may find joy in sharing an event with others, especially if it's something we've been missing or that's been much anticipated. At other times we may find it a bit scary - after all, we're not used to being part of a crowd. We could remind ourselves what Jesus said to the disciples as he walked across the water to them: "Courage!" he said.

“It is I. Don’t be afraid!” (Mark 6:51b). We can remind ourselves that crowds can be good. But I think we will also need to be patient with ourselves, and with one another.

However you find the next weeks of restrictions, and the eventual easing, may you know Jesus with you, giving the peace only he can give.

Helen

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

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. The worship at home material will continue.

27 <sup>th</sup> June	In building & Zoom	Revd Helen White
4 <sup>th</sup> July	Zoom	Revd Helen White
11 <sup>th</sup> July	In building & Zoom	Revd David Goodall
18 <sup>th</sup> July	Zoom	Revd Helen White
25 <sup>th</sup> July	In building & Zoom	Revd Helen White

If you decide to come to Church please ring me on the number below and leave a message if I am not in.

Love and prayers, **Barbara Lloyd (0112 2643134)**

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### **Church Sales**

You may have noticed that a small group led by Lynda Robinson have started holding sales outside Church on a Thursday. Weather permitting, they are raising funds and also creating a loving Church presence in the centre of Cross Gates. They have a variety of books and bric-a-brac for sale so please pop along and support them.

## **Church AGM**

We are still not able to make a final decision on the date and format of the AGM but hope to decide on a way forward shortly.

*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.*

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

We delivered 13 baskets of food, weighing almost 210kg to the Distribution Centre and have received the following email:-

*DEAR CROSS GATES PARISHIONERS AND TRANQUILITY COURT*

*I wish to express our sincere thanks to everyone who has supported us with food donations and £60 cash over the last couple of weeks and beyond.*

*This has helped us to continue our support and service to the less fortunate in our communities, in which has been a very trying time for everyone.*

*God Bless*

*Wendy Doyle. Operations Manager/ Project Manager.*

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

## **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.*

### **Pauline Brown**

A bit about me! I was born in Devonport, Plymouth in 1947 and this city had been badly bombed in the war. My mum's parents were Cornish but had lived in Plymouth when my mum was born. My grandad had been in the Royal Navy, on HMS Hood. He had been on her from the early 1920's and went on what was called the World Tour. He did finish for a few years through some illness but was called up again in the beginning of the WW2 on board HMS Hood again. A week before the Hood was sunk, he had been transferred to another ship; he had known all the sailors who lost their lives Grandad lived till he was 94.

My dad was in the Royal Marines and from Leeds; that is how he met my mum. We came up to Leeds in 1955ish. At first we lived down York Road where the Irish Centre is now, then moving to Halton and Seacroft. I have four sisters and four brothers, I am the eldest. There were just me and my two sisters, Jeannette and Christine when we first moved to Leeds. I married my late husband in 1969 at St. Wilfred's, Halton. David had been an altar boy and that is how I met David. After we married we moved a few times through his job. We then moved back to Leeds and then I found Crossgates Methodist Church, joining with Janet Blyth in about 1991, I think. We had both been going to the Ladies Friendship a while.

Our Minister Joyce Nicholson joined and started the Nativity service. Joyce had asked for volunteers to make shepherd/Angel costumes and I volunteered. I made two dozen and I believe some are still in use. My legs ached for a good while after as I just had a trusty treadle machine!

There have been some really happy meetings over the years and sadly a good few old friends now gone. Hopefully the ones I call friends at Crossgates now will still be around when we can all get together again.

I was born in Middleton in 1936. We went to Wilson Street Chapel in Hunslet where I went to Sunday School and at 7 years old was **told** that I would sing a solo at Sunday School prize-giving, which was two verses and the chorus of a hymn. Mum worked in Dial Street which meant 2 trams so when I was 8 we got an exchange to a corporation semi in East End Park and transferred our membership to Zion Chapel. There I went to Sunday School and both Dad and I were in the choir. Dorothy and I have known each other since we were 8 but didn't hit it off until we were in the Youth Club. We married at Newbourne on June 20<sup>th</sup> 1969 and have been together ever since and have lived in the same house! When our daughter Janet was 2 she joined Cross Gates Sunday School so she could be with her cousins. I have served as a Church Steward and was also in charge of the crèche department. I have sung a lot of solos in Churches and male voice choirs.

Who am I?

**Alan Tate of course!**

**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 special prayer following the extension of lockdown restrictions from Jude Levermore, Head of Mission at the Methodist Church in Britain**

Freedom is coming...Dear Lord, I was so looking forward to the day they were calling Freedom Day. And now it's postponed. I'm thinking of all those whose plans are more complicated, and whose lives are impacted, those on furlough dreaming of going back, those who long to dance at their wedding, those who live in fear of a third wave. Lord, help me to remember that my freedom is tied up only in You, that You are the God who sets me free. Help me to choose again that sort of freedom. Help us to remember the promise that those who hope in the Lord will renew our strength. Then we will soar on wings like eagles; run and not grow weary, walk and not be faint. Lord, give us freedom in you, and strength to wait patiently until the current restrictions end and we can sing your praises again, with our voices and our lives – like you made us to. **Amen**

## **Methodist Homes Association**

As the UK's largest charity care provider, MHA enable people to live later in life well. Through specialist care homes, thriving retirement living and vibrant community groups and befriending, they inspire the best care and wellbeing at every stage of later life. With over 75 years' experience they put people at the heart of everything they do in their homes, schemes and community services across Britain.

### **The Methodist Homes Association have launched a new campaign to #FixCareForAll.**

#FixCareForAll is calling for adult social care to be a national priority in the Government's coronavirus recovery programme. You can help make this happen by taking action today.

Over the last 20 years the sector has had green papers, white papers, commissions and reviews and yet nothing significant has changed. We still have too many older people unable to access the care they need; a complex, unequal and fragmented system that causes distress and confusion for people when they need care. Dedicated and hard-working staff are wrongly labelled low-skilled and are too often underpaid for the life-changing work they do. Adult social care deserves better.

***1.52 million people work in adult social care***

***1.6 million older people have unmet care needs***

***It is 99 weeks since the PM promised to fix care***

### **What can you do?**

In order to finally #FixCareForAll the MHA need your help to remind the national Government who is affected by the broken system. Together, we can show that present and future care must be fixed once and for all.

MHA have a template email for you send to your local MP. It can be accessed on their website. If you have a little more time and a personal experience of working in or accessing adult social care you can edit the template email and add your own personal experiences.

**[www.mha.org.uk](http://www.mha.org.uk)**

## Year of Prayer

*The Methodist Conference declared 2020/2021 a year of prayer.*

Catherine de Hueck Doherty, a Russian immigrant to North America, once wrote a letter to her close friend Dorothy Day in which she described a fascinating way of praying. She told Dorothy that she had been making pilgrimages into her past, stopping here and there along the way to thank God for the joys and sorrows of her life.

She wrote, “Short as my life is, as any human life is, there are, strange to say, many a shrine in it before which, as is the custom of my people, I can bow low from the waist, touching the earth with my hands, and singing alleluias in my heart for each.”

Consider taking your own pilgrimages into the past. Visit the shrines in your life—the places, relationships, and times when God was present, although you may not have noticed him. Stop along the way, thanking God, asking him for healing, or “singing alleluias” in his presence.

Remember, God is eternal, and all moments are equally present to him. The God who described himself as “the one who is and who was and who is to come” (Rv 1:8) is present in your past. Why not worship him there?

### **Pray with Gospel stories.**

The Gospels are the very heart of our sacred Scriptures, and provide fertile ground for prayer. Read one of the stories, imagining yourself in that Gospel scene. Look around you and notice details. Try to engage all of your senses. What are you feeling? What do you want to say to Jesus? What does Jesus say to you?

This practice of prayerfully using your God-given imagination is a way of bringing to life the stories that make you a Christian and a follower of Christ. It can help you engage with Jesus and his message in a powerful, life-changing way.

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The daughter of a Minister asked her mother: 'Why does daddy pray to God before he preaches?' Her mother replied: 'He asks God to help him.' A cloud came across the little girl's face and she said: 'Why doesn't he then?'

**Appreciation** Amanda, Alison and Andrea would like to thank everyone for the cards and messages of sympathy received following the death of their Dad, Peter. Many thanks to Helen for helping us to give Dad the send-off he wanted and for all her support at this difficult time. Dad will be missed but we are comforted by the thought that he is now at peace with Mum.

**Contact Form** Don't forget, 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 complete the form that has been in previous Newsletters and return to Barbara Lloyd or Cynthia Best or bring it with you to an in-building service.

**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** please get in touch with Amanda Brow. 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: 19/7/21, 18/8/21, 16/9/21.

**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**