



# CROSSGATES METHODIST CHURCH August 2021 Newsletter

MINISTER: Rev Helen White  
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## **Freedom**

'You never know you've got it until you've lost it.' That was a clue to a word in an exercise I had to complete as a third year junior (aged 10). I wonder what you would have put. The answer was freedom. Not an easy concept for 9 and 10 year olds to grasp. We've lost various freedoms over the last 16 months and some of those losses have gone on longer than others: freedom to go where we wanted, freedom to mix with whoever we wanted to, freedom to visit friends and family in hospital or care homes, freedom to sing in church, freedom to go shopping with others, freedom to attend funerals, go to church, hold celebrations of significant events... Most of those freedoms have now been restored, with the arrival of so-called 'Freedom Day' (yesterday, as I write).

But what does Freedom Day really mean? It's not freedom for those who now feel more fearful about going out. It's not freedom for those still at increased risk of infection. It does mean we are now free to make our own choices, but with comes responsibility. It doesn't mean we are free to do what we want. Paul had something to say about that in the New Testament - especially addressed to those who thought that their freedom in Christ meant they could do as they liked. As we make choices in the coming days and weeks, I think it would be good to have in mind these verses from Galatians:

'For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters; only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but through love

become slaves to one another. For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment, "You shall love your neighbour as yourself. "' (Galatians 5:13-14)

When we are deciding whether to wear a mask or not, it's not just down to what we feel, but what is good for our neighbour, the people we will meet. When we are thinking about whether to greet someone with a hug, a handshake or an elbow touch, we should be considering not only what we are comfortable with but what feels OK for our neighbour too.

May the God who created you, set you free;  
May the Son who cut the chains, set you free;  
May the Spirit who longs to fill your lives, set you free.  
And may the wisdom of God, Father, Son and Spirit,  
guide you in living your freedom responsibly.

Blessings, **Helen**

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### **Church Annual General Meeting**

The AGM will take place on **Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> September** after the morning service. It will be held in Church in order to help with social distancing.

*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.*

Please do try and stay for this important part of Church life if you can. It may be that people have to bring their own refreshments but we will let you know about this nearer the time.

## An Update on In-Building Church Services

As we continue to live with the virus, and current high case numbers in Leeds, the small group delegated by the Church Council, have made the following decisions:

- We will continue to wear masks in the building.
- We will continue to sit at a distance from people we are not in a bubble with.
- Please use non-contact ways of greeting people (wave, spoken greeting, but no hugs or handshakes).
- We will keep the services to the same reduced length, though we will start to allow singing of one hymn, whilst masked.

**You will no longer need to book**, but we will be continuing to keep a list of who attends for test and trace purposes. So, if you've not yet been back and are able to let Barbara Lloyd know in advance, your name will be added to the list so the person on the door only needs to put a tick against your name whenever you attend.

We talked about post worship refreshments, but decided that the time is not yet right for this. We are meeting again towards the end of August when we will review these decisions, based on the information then available.

*We look forward to perhaps seeing a few more of you in Church. Our experience so far shows that there is room for all those who would like to attend so please don't think you need to hold back.*

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.

1 <sup>st</sup> August	In building & Zoom	Revd Helen White
8 <sup>th</sup> August	“	Revd Helen White
15 <sup>th</sup> August	In building & Zoom	Revd Helen White
22 <sup>nd</sup> August	“	Revd Helen White
29 <sup>th</sup> August	Zoom	Revd Helen White

## **Cross Gates's very own 'Marks & Dewhirst?'**

I have recently been helping Cross Gates Methodist Church deposit some of their historical records at the West Yorkshire Archives Service in Leeds. It was during a recent visit to the basement of the Chapel that I came across a pile of large photographs which were obviously all once framed and displayed at someplace within the Chapel. They dated from 1894 to 1937 and were mainly leaders of the Church or Sunday School or showing celebration events. A couple of the photographs caught my eye: the 1<sup>st</sup> was of a lady by the name of Clara Dewhirst and a separate one of her husband I.J. Dewhirst. I started to poke about in the historical records and discovered quite a story.....

Issac Jowett Dewhirst was born on the 1<sup>st</sup> February 1863 in Huddersfield, his father Benjamin was a Chemist and Druggist and a prominent Wesleyan Methodist at the Queen Street Chapel in that town. After school he became a draper in Huddersfield, but in the early 1880s he moved to Leeds and set up a wholesale and retail drapers business in Kirkgate which became very successful.

In the mid 1880s he moved to live on North Terrace in the then rapidly expanding village of Cross Gates and he joined the fledgling Wesleyan Methodist Society on Austhorpe Road which had only recently constructed their 1<sup>st</sup> Chapel (1882 – now the Church Hall). On the 5<sup>th</sup> September 1887 he married Clara Blackhouse, a shopkeeper, at Manston St James Church (The Cross Gates Wesleyan Chapel was not authorised for the solemnization of marriages until 19<sup>th</sup> November 1887).

Issac and Clara were enthusiastic workers for the Austhorpe Road Wesleyan Church. He laid one of the memorial stones for the new (current) Chapel in 1892 and was secretary to the Trustees of the Church from 1897 until 1937. He held most of the offices open to laymen in the Church and the Richmond Hill Methodist Circuit. Outside of the Church he was an elected member of Barwick in Elmet Parish Council in 1898, the West Riding County Council in 1910 and a County Alderman from 1923. He was appointed a Justice of the Peace in 1915.

Clara was also very active, for many years she was the only female Trustee of the Church and raised substantial amounts of money for the many building and expansion projects which took place between the 1890s and 1930s. She also served as an elected member for Scholes on the Tadcaster Rural District Council and was President of Scholes Women's Institute for many years.

The couple had five children and in 1889 moved into a newly constructed semi-detached house with a large garden on The Avenue off Sandbed Lane called Manston Villa (now no 14 The Avenue). In 1902 they purchased and moved to Whinmoor Lodge (this was a substantial house with large grounds, now demolished, which was opposite the Old Red Lion Public House on the A64). Clara died in 1934 and a notice in a local newspaper summed up her achievements:

*“She will be much missed in the district in which she spent her life for she wielded an influence unique in Seacroft, Crossgates, and in the wider area over which she used her manifold gifts for the good of her fellows. The remarkable attendance at the funeral service was in itself proof of the great esteem in which the late gracious lady was held by all who knew her. ‘Given to hospitality’ was a trait Mrs Dewhirst possessed to the last letter. To mention but one aspect of her hospitality: in the summer-time it has become a custom for many organisations in the neighbourhood – the Nursing Association, Babies’ Welfare, Women’s Bright Hour, Crossgates Church etc – to hold a garden party at Whinmoor Lodge. At these functions Mrs Dewhirst was seen at her best. Splendidly organized, there never seemed to be a hitch at these functions, and now one realizes how much of the success of these largely-attended gatherings was due to the guiding hand of the most charming of hostesses. Magnificent in physique, she was equally noble in character and her charming personality will be a memory which will be cherished by multitudes who came under her influence. Mrs Dewhirst was in very deed ‘A mother in Israel’ “*

Issac died in 1937 whilst at his holiday cottage in Robin Hood’s Bay on the east coast, and the district mourned. Over 70 workers from his wholesale business, I.J. Dewhirst Ltd, walked in front of his hearse from the packed funeral service at Cross Gates Methodist Chapel up Church Lane to Manston Churchyard where the internment took place. He died a very wealthy man with his estate worth in excess of the equivalent of £3.5m.

We must now rewind Issac’s life back to 1884 and his early years in the wholesale drapers trade in Leeds and we find a truly remarkable story. Issac met a Jewish refugee from Poland by the name of Michael Marks. Michael spoke little English but a worker in Issac’s warehouse could speak a little Yiddish and a friendship built up. Issac was obviously impressed by Michael’s enthusiasm and entrepreneurial spirit because he lent him £5 to start a travelling market stall business selling drapery goods bought from Dewhirst’s warehouse. Michael did well and eventually set up a permanent market stall in Leeds Kirkgate Market; ‘don’t ask the price, everything is a penny’. In 1894 he wanted to expand



and approached Issac to offer him a partnership, perhaps 'Marks & Dewhirst'! would have resulted. Issac declined as his wholesale business was already very successful, however he knew his chief clerk was ambitious and looking for an opportunity so he introduced him to Michael Marks, his name was Tom Spencer. The rest they say.....is history.

Dewhirst continues to supply goods to Marks and Spencer and the now framed £5 repayment note from Michael Marks has pride of place in their HQ building.

I think the story of how an adopted son of Cross Gates, Manston and Whinmoor was involved in the founding of an iconic institution has been largely forgotten but the next time I buy some shirts at *Marks and Spencer* I will think of Issac's involvement over 130 years ago.

**David Teal** (our own Michael's son)

First published in The Barwicker, Journal of the Barwick-in-Elmet Historical Society.

Main sources: Cross Gates Methodist Church archives, Skyrack Express Newspaper, Marks & Spencer 1884-1984, A Centenary History by Asa Briggs, Marks in Time – 125 years of Marks & Spencer by Helen Chislett, Manston St James Parish Register, 1871 – 1931 Census, West Riding Registry of Deeds, Wakefield.

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### **Spotlight Feature**

This month we didn't have a volunteer to write a resume of their life story – don't be shy, please consider putting pen to paper and contributing something. Or perhaps you would like to write about a particular memory, funny story about Church or your life in general or let us know something about a friend or family member who has left the Church and the area. What are they doing now? The feature has been well received and it does help us to learn more about each other. Tracy Dick's details are on the back page and all contributions will be gratefully received.

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A little boy once wrote in his essay on 'Lying' :-

"A lie is an abomination unto the Lord but a very present help in trouble."

**LEEDS SOUTH & EAST FOOD BANK (Trussell Trust)**  
**helping local people in crisis**

In the Food Bank communication of 25th June, Barbara Tate (Trustee) wrote '*We need to replenish our stocks. I walked round the warehouse this afternoon and we have a lot of empty shelves. We are particularly short of Fruit Juice, Custard, Rice Pudding and all toiletries. If you are in a position to pass this on to anyone who might help us, we would be grateful.*'

In June, our Church, together with Tranquility Court, delivered 13 baskets of assorted food and toiletries, weighing a total of 192KG. We also were able to donate £125. Everything was gratefully received and John Best has a receipt for the money donated. On the occasions when Church is open there is a basket for gifts in the Galilee.

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

***Romans 12 v 12-13 "Let hope keep you joyful, in trouble stand firm; persist in prayer. Contribute to the needs of God's people, and practice hospitality."***

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**Global help in Covid-19**

The Global Relationships team are supporting partner churches and organisations around the world in the coronavirus pandemic. So far in this connexional year, out of its total budget of £216,000 the World Mission Fund of the Methodist Church in Britain has given £110,000 in Covid-related grants. This comes on top of £550,000 last year, from a total budget of £730,000. Among those helped in 2020/2021, are the Methodist Church in Peru to support pharmacies for indigenous communities and the Henry Martyn Institute in India to distribute masks and health kits to people in extreme poverty. The Global Relationships team stay in constant contact with partners and ask you to pray for them. Their work is part of the wider Methodist Family response to the pandemic, including All We Can.

**Condolences:** We remember in our thoughts and prayers Raymond Winders on the death of his sister Muriel Horsbrough and also the members of Muriel's family.

**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.

**Prayers:** 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.

**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.

**Thank you:** to everyone who is continuing to contribute towards the running costs of our Church. This is making a real difference to our financial situation although balancing the books remains a challenge. If you would like to send in your collection, cheques can be sent through the post to the Church's address or to Linda Booth, Please include at least one of your offertory envelopes so if you are a 'gift aider' this can continue to be claimed. If you would like to change to contributing via **standing order** please get in touch with Amanda Brow. She can be contacted by 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: 18<sup>th</sup> August, 16<sup>th</sup> September

**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*