

CROSSGATES METHODIST CHURCH September 2021 Newsletter

MINISTER: Rev Helen White

Tel: (0113) 260 5254

Changes, patience, and prayers

I think I've written before about September being a new start. This year, there are a few things that have prompted me to think about that again. Firstly, this circuit of Leeds North and East has new co-superintendents from 1st September: Revds George Bailey and Tanya Short. Secondly, the group of churches with which I work has grown to include Christ Church, Halton. Both of these changes will need us to be patient, to pray for one another and to be prepared to do things differently. The third change is the continuing transition to living with Covid 19 in as safe a way as possible, whilst getting on with some semblance of normal life. As I write, we have made some changes at Cross Gates, such as not needing to book in order to attend worship, and being able to sing the final hymn behind our masks. The small group with responsibility to making decisions about our Covid related responses meet again between me writing this and you receiving it. I expect there will be further changes, as we ease the restrictions, whilst trying to keep people safe.

I don't know about you, but in some ways, I find this stage more difficult than when we were in lockdown. At least in lockdown, and when we were living under legal restrictions about distancing, mask wearing and self isolation, we knew where we were. Now, we have to make our own decisions. It strikes me as a bit like the changes Paul writes about for those who follow Christ, compared to those who followed the Jewish faith. For the Jews, they lived by the law, including strict rules about what was and wasn't allowed, for instance what they could and couldn't eat. For Christians, there are no rules, apart from the commandments to love God

and to love our neighbour as ourselves. It's these commandments we need to be guided by in the decisions we make. And, as with so many other things, Christians will come to different conclusions about what is right. Here again we will need to be patient, to pray for one another and be prepared to do things differently.

I ask for your patience and your prayers in these changing times.

Helen

Church Services

A meeting of the Covid response team for Cross Gates has taken place and the wonderful news is that weekly services in Church will resume in September. In order to keep us all safe, the following restrictions were agreed:

- You will still be asked to sanitise your hands before you come in
- Alternate pews will still be used.
- You can sit where you like in the pews that are open, but we would ask you respect other people's space.
- Masks will be optional in Church during the service, but we ask you to wear one when you are moving about and coming into closer contact with people.
- We will sing all hymns and can stand to sing. Masks again are optional.
- Services will still be approximately 40 minutes long to reduce the length of time we are in contact with others.
- Collections will remain as now, with the baskets at the entrance and then brought forward by a steward during the second hymn.
- We will resume using the hymnal but some recordings will be used.
- Hymn books will be available in the Galilee for you to pick one up if you want one, but they will not be handed out. We ask you to leave it in your pew after the service.
- We would ask that you do not stand and chat in the Galilee either before or after the service. Please wait until you get outside in the fresh air.
- The doors and windows will remain open during the services as ventilation of areas remains a key way of reducing risk.
- After church coffee will not resume yet.

- All the toilets are open but we would ask that you consider everyone's space when passing others in the Wesley room corridor, as it is narrow.

Everyone should now have got all the worship at home sheets for the whole of September. If you want to continue getting them after September, when weekly Sunday services resume, please let me know. We are more than happy for you to carry on getting them if you find it difficult to get to church.

5th September		Mr Ted Britton
12th September	Holy Communion	Revd Helen White
19th September		Revd George Bailey
26th September	Harvest Festival	Mrs Susan Howdle

We are asking for donations for the **Harvest Service** of suitable foods for the food bank that our Church has supported so willingly and generously over the years. If you could bring your donations to Church any time over the coming weeks and we will decorate the window sills with it. There will also be a retiring collection for 'All We Can' who this year are supporting Nikayi in Zimbabwe, where dry lands, poor farming practices and limited access to water are causing severe problems.

If you want to know anything please do not hesitate to ask.

Barbara Lloyd

Church Annual General Meeting

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

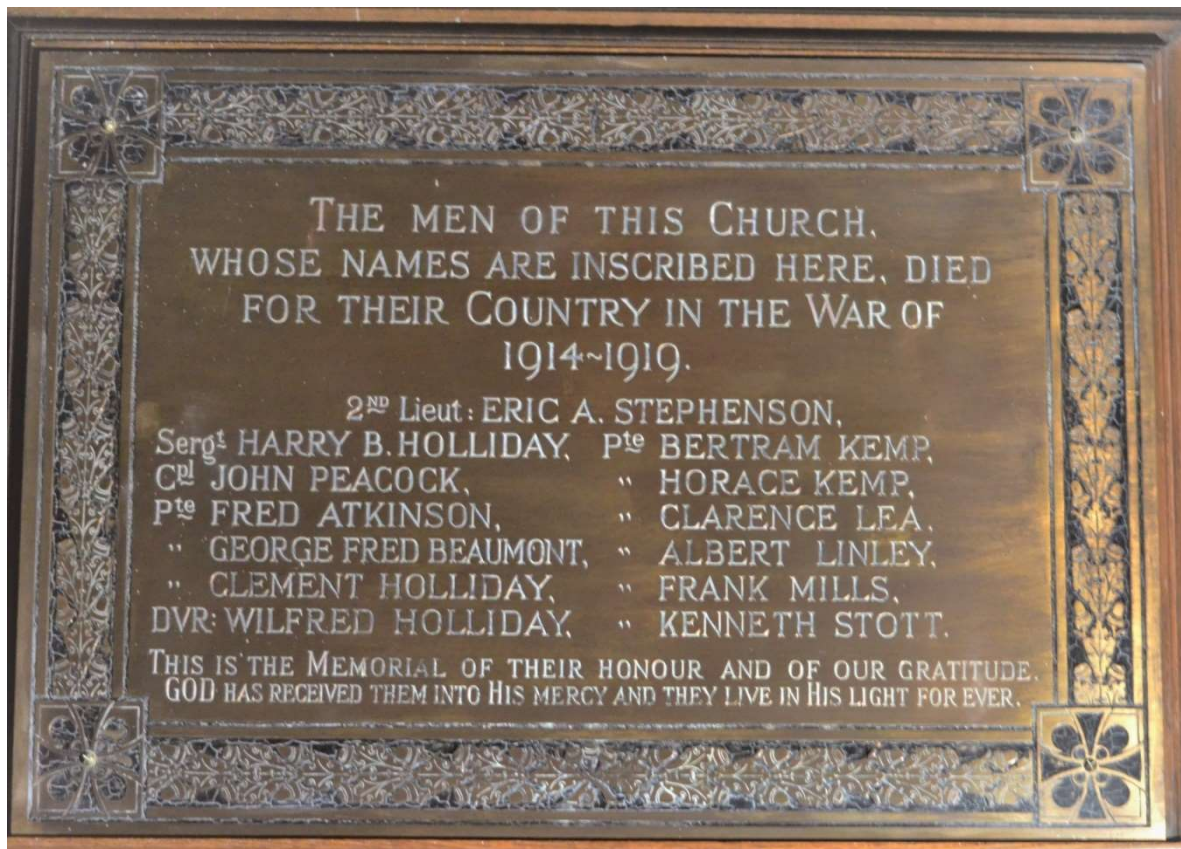
Please do try and stay for this important part of Church life if you can. As we are not yet providing coffee and tea please feel free to bring your own refreshments.

Cross Gates Methodist Church – World War One Memorial

(part 1)

By Christine Holdstock

On the left-hand wall of the Church there are two memorial plaques commemorating the people of this Church who gave their lives for their country in the two world wars. I have researched the soldiers who are on the First World War Plaque and here is some of the information that I have been able to find. If anyone has any further information about any of these people or their families please let me know.



I used the following websites to find information:

- Commonwealth War Graves Commission: <https://www.cwgc.org/>
- Lives of the First World War: <https://livesofthefirstworldwar.iwm.org.uk/>
- Find my Past: <https://www.findmypast.co.uk/>
- Ancestry: <https://www.ancestry.co.uk/>

Fred Atkinson was the son of Thomas and Mary Atkinson, of Crossgates, Leeds. On the 1911 census he was recorded as living at The Green, Crossgates and was an Insurance Clerk, age 22. He died on 3rd September 1916 and he is buried at the Amara War Cemetery in Iraq. He was in the Royal Army Medical Corps.

George Fred Beaumont

was the son of George William and Ann Beaumont, of Rose Cottage, The Orchards, Crossgates. In 1911 he was 20 and working as a clerk, in 1912 he went to



Canada. He enlisted in the Canadian Overseas Expeditionary force on 7th November 1914 in Toronto. He died on 15th September 1916, aged 25 and his name is recorded on the Vimy Memorial, Pas de Calais, France, and also in the Veterans Canada Memorial Book.

Harry Barker Holliday was one of three brothers who all died during the war. They were the sons of William and Mary Jane Holliday, of 126 Austhorpe Rd and were all living there in 1911, then Harry was a clerk. He died on 3rd September 1918, aged 30 and is buried in the Reninghelst New Military Cemetery, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium.



Wilfred Holliday was 20 in 1911 and his occupation was the milk trade and farming. He was killed in action in France on 8th April 1918, age 28 and is buried at the Warloy-Baillon Communal Cemetery.

Clement Holliday worked in a clothiery warehouse and was 17 in 1911. He was killed in action in France, on 29th March 1918, aged 34 and his memorial is at the Pozieres Memorial, Departement de la Somme, Picardie, France.

It's hard to believe that three brothers who lived in Austhorpe Road and came to this Church all died in 1918 serving their country.

Leeds South & East Foodbank

There is concern from the Trussell Trust and 90 other organisations about the proposed cut in Universal credit. A Director of the Trussell Trust has given the following information:-*“The UK Government is planning to cut Universal Credit by £20 per week from October – for some families this will mean suddenly losing a fifth of their income. Last year the Food Banks in our network gave out 2.5 million parcels and we are concerned this cut will mean even more people will need a Food Bank later this year. More than a million people say that they will need a Food Bank if this goes ahead.”* In July, our Church plus Tranquility Court, delivered 11 boxes of food/toiletries, weighing approximately 180Kg, plus £60 cash (receipt available) to the Leeds South and East Food Bank Distribution centre. **On the occasions when Church is open there is a basket in the Gallilee to receive your gifts. Or please contact John Best - or email - jvbest47@gmail.com who will gladly collect.**

Charitable Donations

Thanks to the continuing generosity of the Church family, I have been able to send the usual donations to the various organisations we support. Here are some of the comments I have received from them.....

St George's Crypt – thank you all so much for your kind donation.

District Benevolence Fund – your gift will be used to support ministers and lay people across the District and will allow us to show Christian love by offering practical help at a time of need.

Caring for Life – your contribution will be a wonderful help, as the farm areas are opening up and we are starting to welcome beneficiaries back to the projects.

St Gemma's Hospice – having people like you on our side means that we will be able to continue providing the highest quality of care to our patients and their loved ones throughout this pandemic.

Christian Aid – Around the world, Coronavirus affects us all. But it is love that unites us, and we are so grateful for the love shown in donating to our emergency appeal by Crossgates Methodist Church.

Meeting Point – We will put the monies to good use. The support of churches and individuals is vital to the ongoing ministry at meeting Point.

....with grateful thanks, Alison Lambert, Treasurer.

Making A Will

We spend our lives working to provide for ourselves and our loved ones. As life changes around us, now might be a good time to consider making or updating your Will, if you haven't already done so. Making your Will means you can be certain that your wishes are followed after your death.

Making a Will is often seen as a very sensitive subject, one which many people prefer to put off until a later date. However having a Will can make life much easier for our loved ones when the time comes. A Will is the only way to make sure money, property and possessions go to the people and causes we care about.

After you have provided for family and loved ones giving even relatively small amounts to charities and other causes such as our Church can make a real difference. Recently, our Church was remembered in the Wills of two members and their generous contributions have helped our finances to hold up during the pandemic.

In October St Gemma's Hospice will again be holding 'Make a Will Month' where local solicitors waive their fees in exchange for a donation to the Hospice. For more information visit their website www.st-gemma.co.uk or phone 0113 218 5555 for a leaflet.

If you would find it helpful to have a conversation about what you want to happen after your death, whether about your funeral service, leaving money to the Church, or more generally about the end of life, please do get in touch with Rev'd Helen White.



Methodist Women
in Britain

YORKSHIRE WEST DISTRICT

A SERVICE OF CELEBRATION AND

DEDICATION LED BY REV'D KIM WILLIAMS AND AFTERNOON WITH MRS RUTH PARROTT, CONNEXIONAL PRESIDENT OF MWiB. **Thursday September 23rd at West Wakefield Methodist Church, Thornes Road, WF2 8QR**

11.30 - Service of Dedication with Holy Communion

12.30 - Lunch. Please bring a packed lunch (drinks and cakes provided)

1.30 - An afternoon with the Connexional President - hear about her plans and hopes for her time in office. **A WARM WELCOME IS EXTENDED TO ALL (The wearing of masks is encouraged)**

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.

Good Luck: our thoughts and prayers are with all young people, teachers and support staff as they return to classrooms this September.

Congratulations to: Jodie Marr on gaining her 2:1 honours degree in modern languages from the University of Reading. This is an amazing achievement as due to the pandemic Jodie had her year abroad cancelled and spent two of the remaining three years studying online. Furthermore she won the prize for the highest mark in French.
Well done Jodie!

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

Newsletter: Please email contributions for the Newsletter to Tracy Dick tracylouisedick@gmail.com or write to 5, Manston Gardens, Leeds, LS15 8EY. Deadlines coming up: 18th August, 16th 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