



CROSSGATES METHODIST CHURCH October 2021 Newsletter

MINISTER: Rev Helen White

Never forgotten...

I wonder what October means to you. It seems to be birthday season amongst my friends and family. I've got a pile of birthday cards on my desk ready to be written and sent, hopefully arriving on time. I had a look through my diary to see what October brings. Hallowe'en of course at the end of the month. But before we get to the end of the month there is One World Week, Prisons Week, and the feast days of St Luke, and the apostles Simon and Jude.

Luke wrote the Gospel named after him, and the book of Acts, so we probably remember him. Perhaps you also remember that he was a doctor. Did you know that he accompanied Paul on some of his travels? We know that because, in chapter 21 of Acts, the writer starts talking about what 'we' did rather than he/they as he does earlier in Acts.

But what about Simon and Jude – what do we know about them? This Simon is not the one renamed Peter – his feast day is in June. This Simon is the one usually described as the Zealot (Luke 6:15 and Acts 1:13). There isn't an apostle named Jude, if you search the NRSV. He is named as Judas, son of James in Luke, and mentioned in John as 'Judas not Iscariot). Both men have the problem of being the less well-known disciple of that name. Simon is patron saint of tanners, and Jude of lost causes. Nothing is known of them after the Gospels and chapter 1 of Acts. I wonder what became of them.

Some of us may know what it feels like to share our name with others. Perhaps at school we were compared with an older sibling, or a parent who was already known. Some people have the experience of even a parent or grandparent mixing them up with their siblings, or perhaps even

running all the names together in the hope that one will be right. Maybe we have a first name that lots of others have. Looking round the churches at the moment, Margaret and John are two names that come to mind. How do we distinguish one from the other in conversation? Often by a surname, when context is not enough. We've agreed that in minutes at Christ Church we'll need to say Helen W and Helen L, though that doesn't work for Margarets... Just as John B doesn't work at Cross Gates.

However difficult we may find it at times to keep different people separate in our minds, or distinguish one person from another, we can be confident that God doesn't have that problem. God knows each of us, every hair on our heads, and loves us. God never forgets us. "Can a woman forget her nursing-child, or show no compassion for the child of her womb? Even these may forget, yet I will not forget you." (Isaiah 49:15). This is just one of many verses of comfort and reassurance, that God knows us and loves us.

Whatever this month holds for you – birthdays, feast days, times of sadness or celebration, struggle or joy – know that God loves you, and never forgets you.

Helen

A seasonal prayer

We bless you, God of seed and harvest. And we bless each other. That the beauty of this world and the love that created it, might be expressed through our lives. And be a blessing to others.

For summer's passing and harvest home

We thank you

For autumn's splendor and winter's chill

We thank you

For seed that has fallen and the promise of spring

We thank you

Service Change for November

Two children are going to be baptised at Cross Gates on **Sunday 7th November**, during the morning service. In order to be as welcoming as

possible to them, their families and friends, we have decided to make this an all age service. The Communion that is on the plan for the 7th will take place at **9.30am**. You are welcome to come to either or both services that day. There will be more about this in the November newsletter, and in the notices read out in Church in the two weeks beforehand.

Leeds South & East Foodbank
helping local people in crisis

Food donated for the Harvest Festival will be donated to the foodbank as part of our ongoing and very generous support.

Now Church is open again items can be brought each Sunday but as always collection can be arranged via John Best.

Thank you to John who allows us all to support this worthwhile cause so easily and conveniently.

If you are able to donate, please contact John Best email jvbest39@hotmail.com who will gladly collect from you.

Church AGM 2021

Thank you to all those Church members who attended the AGM on Sunday 12th September. Our Stewards will remain the same – Cedric, John and Barbara but they are keen to grow the team and appealed for anyone who is willing to help in any way to have a chat with one of them. John Best and Harry Drake led heartfelt thanks to the Stewards and all those who have worked so hard to keep the life of the Church going under such difficult circumstances. At the end of the meeting we remembered in prayer all those Church members who have died since our previous meeting.

Cross Gates Methodist Church – World War One Memorial (part 2) By Christine Holdstock

This is the second part of my article about the soldiers whose names are on the First World War Plaque in our Church. If anyone has any further information about any of these people or their families please let me know.

Bertram Kemp and Horace Kemp

There are two brothers named on the plaque, sons of William Herbert and Sarah Ann Kemp, of Hinde Cottage, Cross Gates (*If you know where Hinde Cottage was, please let me know as I haven't been able to find it on old maps*). The 1911 census tells us that Bertram and Horace were living here with two younger brothers, Cyril and Norman.

Bertram Kemp was 21 in 1911 and his occupation was a clerk in a grocer's warehouse. He died on 26th April 1917, aged 27, and is buried in Cherisy Road East Cemetery, Heninel 15, Pas de Calais. While driving through France we visited this small cemetery, containing 82 First World War burials.

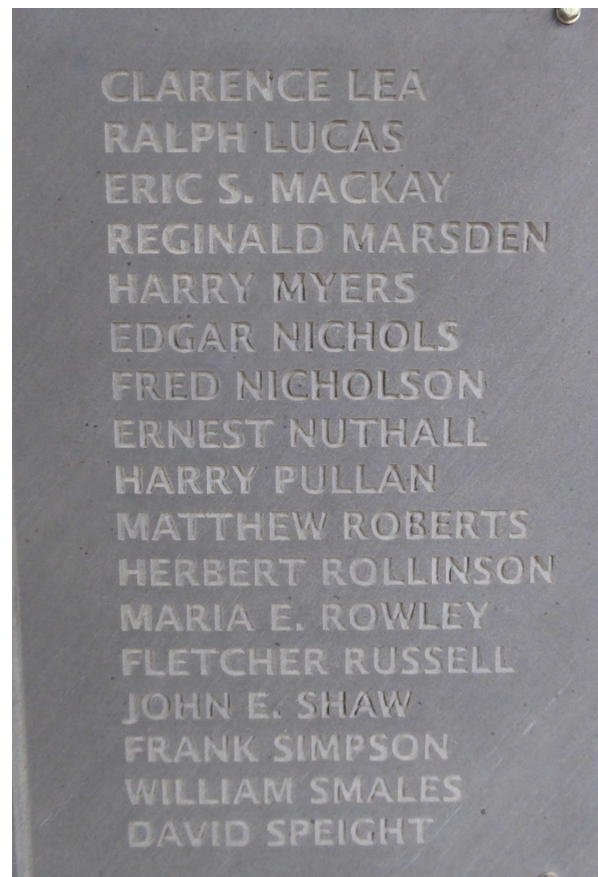


It is surrounded by fields, with two more small cemeteries nearby.

Horace Kemp was an assistant in a grocer's shop in 1911. He was in the Royal Army Medical Corps. He died on 20th March 1920, aged 28, I assume of injuries received during the war. He is buried in Manston (St. James) Churchyard. If you walk through the Lychgate his grave is on your right.



Clarence Lea died on 3rd July 1916, aged 19 at the Somme. The Battle of the Somme took place between 1st July and 18th November 1916. More than three million men fought in the battle and one million men were wounded or killed, making it one of the deadliest battles in human history. Clarence was the son of Samuel and Elizabeth Ann Lea of 7 Hermon Terrace, Halton. He is buried at Daours Communal Cemetery Extension, near the river Somme. His name is also recorded on the memorial at St Mary's Church Whitkirk Lychgate (shown), and he is also remembered on a private family memorial in the Church cemetery



Albert Linley was the son of Caleb and Ada Linley, of 49, Station Road, Cross Gates, (where the Pink Nail Bar is today). He died 26 April 1917, aged 27 and is buried at the Cojeul British cemetery, St. Martin-sur-Cojeul, Pas de Calais.



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/>

Coincidences by Pauline Brown

I have been joining in with the Good Neighbours, Crossgates, over this pandemic. They have bingo on Wednesday afternoons and also quiz mornings on a Friday. The lady who organises the bingo sessions, had a garden party the other Tuesday. I had met just a few in the flesh, so to speak when we were able before all the lockdowns. Jerry, I only knew from his wife Linda and then the zoom quizzes started. Then we all managed to meet up at Val's garden party.

Jerry and I started talking and he told me his dad had lived down at Burmantofts, a place called Newtown, turned out my dad also had lived down there. My dad used to tell us tales of how him and his mates/friends used to roll huge wagon wheels down towards some big wooden gates at the bottom. Jerry burst out laughing, telling me that yard had belonged to his grandad. His grandad owed some horses and carts for a business. We exchanged surnames of both families as Jerry said he speaks to his dad every night, now in his late eighties. So, Jerry spoke to his dad on Tuesday evening and lo and behold, our earlier families had lived next door to each other in the 20's/ 30's! My dad died 12 years back but I am going to ask my only aunt left from dad's side if she remembers the Pitt's! A small but funny world.

From Railways to Ruskin by Bill Bains ***(precis of a longer article)***

For seven years (1960/67) I worked for British Rail as a mobile train driver, then as a goods driver, finally I was transferred to parcel delivery. Then the infamous Dr Beeching closed the small station at Pelaw, near Gateshead, where I worked and eventually I was made redundant. There followed a prolonged period of unemployment. Having a family of five, life was anything but easy.

It was lucky that I had joined Toc H in 1960 and acted as secretary of the Sunderland Branch. A year or so after becoming a member I was instrumental in establishing the Sunderland Society for the Disabled and acted as their secretary. There were other voluntary 'jobs'; serving as a district and area representative within the Toc H organisation and serving on one or two committees within the voluntary sector.

Work was very hard to pin down – despite not being choosy in the work I was prepared to take on. I had variously been employed as a door to door salesman, a cinema doorman, a bill poster, a bus conductor; these only when I could not find work as my mainstay, a crane driver. At one of my

regular visits to the unemployment exchange the Manager asked to see me and it transpired that the Sunderland Society for the Disabled had been a boon to him and his wife, who had MS. The Manager then arranged for me to be 'reviewed' and much to my amazement I was recommended to be considered for work as a Social Worker. I had no education but the family caseworker from the local authority urged me to apply for college. It was with an air of disbelief that I applied to Ruskin College, Oxford.

I was accepted by Ruskin to start in October 1968 and for all who had been involved up to that time, there was a real sense of achievement. However my Local Authority refused my application for a grant on the grounds of 'financial stringencies'. This was a bitter blow. I contacted my local town councillor, the town's MPs and uproar followed but the council did not relent. Several times I wanted to give up but when we were at our lowest ebb the Sunderland Toc H branch lifted our spirits by awarding me £250. This great action stimulated others to consider me for awards. My wife then played her part by taking a part time job as a cleaner whilst looking after the children and Ruskin waived tuition fees. The trauma was still not over for by now I had the burden of succeeding. The college tutors were very reassuring; it appeared all my work was of a high standard. As my finals approached I was becoming very depressed and anxious with the spectre of failure haunting me all day and most nights. How could I not succeed? The people who had supported me would be let down.

After the examinations I rushed home and began seeking work and re-involving myself in my voluntary work. I was offered a job as a Welfare Officer for Sunderland which was not contingent upon my diploma. The new job and learning how to fit into a non industrial atmosphere, having to sit at a desk and not at the controls of a crane was all so very strange. At the beginning of August 1969 a large envelope arrived containing the Oxford University Special Diploma in Social Studies and a letter of congratulations from the Principal.

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

Content is updated weekly on a Thursday evening.

October Services

3 rd October		Mr Steven Jones
10 th October	Holy Communion	Revd Helen White
17 th October		Miss Mary Patchett
24 th October		Revd Joyce Nicholson
31 st October		Mrs Anne Vautrey

Congratulations: to Michelle (nee Oates) and Steve on the birth of their son, Tom Spencer and to the grandparents, Don and Anne.

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.

Running Costs: to everyone who is continuing to contribute towards the running costs of our Church. Balancing our 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 email amandajbrow@gmail.com

The Methodist Church in Britain has: approximately 170,000 members; 100 partner churches and organisations in over 65 countries across the globe, around 25,000 pupils enrolled in 84 Methodist schools. Total income in 2019/20 was £44.4 million and total expenditure was the same.

Newsletter: Please email contributions for the Newsletter to Tracy Dick tracylouisedick@gmail.com

. Deadlines coming up: 18th October, 15th November, 13th December.

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