



CROSSGATES METHODIST CHURCH November 2021 Newsletter

MINISTER: Rev Helen White

St Hilda

What does November make you think of? Fireworks, Remembrance, foggy days... Perhaps in your family there's a birthday or significant day. But did you know, it's the month when St Hilda's day falls? November 17th. Who was Hilda, you may be asking. She's probably not as well known as Andrew whose day is November 30th, but she was a significant woman, especially for her time.

Hilda was in charge of the monastery at Whitby. It was a double monastery - with both men and women living there, as was the custom in the Celtic church of the time. Bede (a monk of the 8th century who wrote the Ecclesiastical History of the English People) describes Hilda as a woman of great energy, who was a skilled administrator and teacher. She gained such a reputation for wisdom that even kings and princes sought her advice, but she also had a concern for ordinary folk like Caedmon. He was a cowherd at the monastery, who was inspired in a dream to sing verses in praise of God. Hilda recognised his gift and encouraged him to develop it. Although Hilda must have had a strong character, she inspired affection. As Bede writes, "All who knew her, called her mother, because of her outstanding devotion and grace."

A woman of great energy and of outstanding devotion and grace. I wonder what we can learn from Hilda? On her deathbed, as Bede reports, she urged her community "to preserve the gospel peace amongst themselves and towards all others." In this month when we remember in particular those killed and injured in war, that sounds like an appropriate thing to learn from her. I wonder how we can preserve the gospel peace among ourselves and towards all others.

God our vision, in our mother's womb you formed us for your glory.
As your servant Hilda shone like a jewel in the church

may we now delight to claim her gifts of judgement and inspiration reflected in the women of this age through Jesus Christ, Amen.

Janet Morley, *All Desires Known*

Blessings
Helen

November Services

7 November - 9.30	Holy Communion	Revd Helen White
7 November - 10.30	All age service	Revd Helen White
14 November - 10.30		Steward & Worship Leader
21 November - 10.30		Mr John Summerwill
28 November - 10.30		Mrs Catherine Frieze
28 November - 3pm	Service of Remembrance	Revd Helen White

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.

Rainbow of Ribbons & Service of Remembrance

The Rainbow of Ribbons outside Church will be a very visual way for our Church to demonstrate to the wider community that our thoughts and prayers are with the bereaved whether they attend our Church or not. A ribbon can be dedicated in memory of someone who has died recently or who has been loved and missed for many months or years. If you are interested in participating there is further information and a form opposite plus an extra form for you to pass on to anyone who may be interested.

Rainbow of Ribbons

The **Rainbow of Ribbons** is a lovely way to commemorate people who have added colour to our lives. Each one displays the name of someone special who was loved and is missed.

You are warmly invited to dedicate a ribbon to remember and celebrate the life of someone special. Simply write your tribute and the name of your loved one on the ribbon provided and it will be added to the display. The ribbons will flutter at the front of Cross Gates Methodist Church from Monday 15th November until Monday 6th December.

Ribbons are available at all Church services and events including the table top sale on Saturday 6th November.

Or you can email helen.white@methodist.org.uk

A Service of Remembrance will take place on

Sunday 28th November at 3pm

At Cross Gates Methodist Church, Austhorpe Road, LS15 8QR

Everyone is welcome to attend but you can dedicate a ribbon without attending the service. Only those names requested will be read out.

Refreshments will be served afterwards

.....

I have dedicated a ribbon in the **Rainbow of Ribbons** and would like the name of my loved one to be read out at the Service of Remembrance on Sunday 28th November.

My ribbon is in memory of:

Name:.....

(Please write clearly in block capitals)

Cross Gates Methodist Church – World War One Memorial (part 3) By Christine Holdstock

Frank Mills

Frank was born on 29th September 1896 and was baptised in Richmond Hill Wesleyan Methodist Church; the family address was given as 38 Upper Accommodation Road. By 1911 they were living at 124 Austhorpe Road, Crossgates. He joined the “Leeds Pals” in October 1916.



The Leeds Pals were men and boys from Leeds who formed the 15th Battalion of the West Yorkshire Regiment, The Prince of Wales' Own. The Pals enlisted as volunteer soldiers at the outset of the First World War following Lord Kitchener's famous 'Call to Arms'. They were part of a national phenomenon of 'Pals' that sprang up from many towns and cities across the nation. In common with other volunteer battalions, the Leeds Pals were nearly wiped out in the Battle of the Somme.

On 3rd May 1917 the Pals attacked, from the trenches at the village of Gavrelle, Arras. The Germans unleashed a bombardment, and the Pals were trapped. Eventually the survivors were able to get back to their own lines, but 170 men had been killed, and another four had died of wounds. At least 29 were taken prisoner, and this is where a mystery lies. Frank had taken part in this attack, and was one of many who didn't return. Initially he was posted as 'Missing, presumed dead'. After some time had passed it was accepted that he had been killed in the attack, and his records show him as 'Killed in Action' on 3rd May, though his body was not found. But there is a very brief entry in the German POW Records, just a list of names of English prisoners, one of which is Frank Mills, Private 38545, and it is dated 20th August 1917. No date is given for his capture and no indication of his ultimate fate, did Frank somehow survive, unknown, to die later? He could have been picked up by the Germans badly wounded, and died soon after. Maybe someone knows the answer to this? His mother, who had been living at 32 Austhorpe Road, Cross Gates, Leeds died on 22nd October 1922. If you can add anything to this story please contact me. I found most of this information from the Leeds Pals website:

Frank Mills' name is recorded on the Arras Memorial at Faubourg, D'Amiens Cemetery, Arras. We visited there and found his name among hundreds of others, all the names on this wall are soldiers from Yorkshire Regiments.



Kenneth Stott

In 1911 he was living at "Lyndhurst", Austhorpe Road, Cross Gates, he was 19 and a Chemist & Druggist's apprentice. Kenneth was the son of Walter Wood Stott and Lucie Alberta Stott (late of Halton), and the husband of Edith. He



was a member of "N" Coy. (Ripon), Royal Army Medical Corps. He died 25th December 1916, aged 24, in Ripon Military Hospital and is buried in Ripon Cemetery. He is also named on memorial at St. Mary's Church, Whitkirk.

This is the third 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.

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/>
- [Leeds Pals](https://leedspalsvolunteerresearchers.wordpress.com/2021/05/17/frank-mills-another-mystery/)
<https://leedspalsvolunteerresearchers.wordpress.com/2021/05/17/frank-mills-another-mystery/>

A message from our Senior Steward

The Sunday services at Church are going well and numbers are slowly increasing. We had 58 people at the Harvest Service. We are no longer seating people, but we check that social distancing rules are followed where required. The Sunday service still lasts about 40 minutes and there is no after church coffee yet but hopefully it will start again soon. Hymn books are now available, please leave them in your pew. We are still keeping a list of who attends for track and trace purposes. If you think you may have covid, please do not come to Church.

We still have to check the building is well ventilated, the heating is on now but the front door is left open throughout the service, so please come warmly wrapped up. I give out notices at the start of the service, so if you have any information you want me to give out, please let me know.

Last month I was Steward at a Memorial Service arranged by someone who comes to our church who has links with Zimbabwe. There were about 70 people though I couldn't count accurately as no one sat in their seat long enough! Children were running about and there was a happy feel to the whole service (which lasted 3 hours!) The service was said in English and Shona so I couldn't understand a lot of it. There was singing, but no music – someone started with a 'note' and everyone joined in. The congregation consisted of many young people, teenage boys and girls, which I am sad to say seemed unusual. Bottled water was given out to the Congregation half way through the service! It was a joy to be there.

Love and Prayers, Barbara.

Christmas Greetings

Why not send Christmas greetings to the Church family via this newsletter and support Action for Children at the same time. You will reach everyone and save money on cards and postage. In return for a small donation your messages will be printed in the special Christmas edition of the newsletter. The deadline for messages is **Friday 10th December** and can be sent to Tracy via any of the methods below. Donations should be brought to a Church service, sent to Linda Booth (clearly separated from your collection), or posted to Church.

Tracy Dick tracylouisedick@gmail.com or phone 0113 264 3788 or write to 5 Manston Gardens, Leeds, LS15 8EY

Monday Coffee Morning

Monday coffee mornings will start again on 1st November, 10:00am to 11:30am for a trial period.

Many people have been asking for it to re-open but we really do need some help to make it successful. If you know anyone who would be willing to help once a fortnight or once a month on a rota please will you let a steward know.

Thursday Sales

As the winter weather approaches we have decided not to do any more outside sales after the end of October. The sales have raised more than £1700 for church funds and we would like to thank everyone who has supported us, either by helping on the day, donating goods or coming along and having a chat.

Table Top Sales - 6th November & 4th December

The Saturday sales have started again with fewer tables so that everyone has more space to social distance but please note that the coffee morning has not yet re-opened.

If you would like any more details or to book a table, at a cost of £5 for church funds, please phone Lynda 07799094472.

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

In August our Church, plus Tranquility Court, supplied 93kg of food and gave a Donation of £40 to the Leeds South and East Distribution Centre. September was our Harvest Festival when we were able to donate a massive 303Kg and a further donation of £65. We received a thank you letter from the Centres Operation Manager who wrote "*Dear Parishioners and Tranquility Court tenants. I wish to express our sincere thank - you to everyone who supported us with food plus your kind donation of £65 which we received on 27th September 2021. This will help us continue with the support and service we offer to those less fortunate in our communities.*" God Bless. Regards. Wendy Doyle, Operations Manager/Project Manager.

If you are able to contribute food or toiletries, please contact John Best (01132 647283 or email jvbest39@hotmail.com, who will gladly collect from you.

Congratulations: to Memory and Liam on the birth of their son Max, and to the grandparents Brouche and Andrew.

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.

Service Options: If there are any people or situations you would like included in the prayers in worship, please let me 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.

GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation): Don't forget to let Cynthia Best know if your contact information (name address, phone number and email) has changed. Please also inform her if you don't wish Church to keep this information. Please be aware that if you don't wish your contact details to be kept by Church then we will not be able to contact you, send information or newsletters.

Newsletter: Please email contributions for the Newsletter to Tracy Dick tracylouisedick@gmail.com or phone 0113 264 3788 or write to 5 Manston Gardens, Leeds, LS15 8EY. Deadlines coming up: 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