



# CROSSGATES METHODIST CHURCH Newsletter February 2022

MINISTER: Rev Helen White

## Love is...

Valentine's Day comes halfway through February. If I was being cynical, I could say it is an opportunity for flower growers and restaurateurs to charge a premium on their prices. On the other hand it is an opportunity for couples to celebrate their love for one another and recognise what it is they share, but sometimes take for granted in the busyness of life. But that is only one aspect of love. To add to the cartoon characters in a heart sharing a kiss (you remember those cartoons of the 70's Love is...?), I want to have someone with a bowl and towel. Love is also about serving and that applies to all of us whether part of a couple, a family, or on our own. The bowl and towel speaks to me of the costly love that Jesus showed, and which he calls us to demonstrate in our own lives.

There are many passages in the Bible about love. The obvious one which most of us know is St Paul's words on love in 1 Corinthians 13. Another one (1 John 4) reminds us that it is in what we do for our brother and sister that our love is seen. We love because God first loved us.

Love is ... God.

Love is ... costly.

Love is ... caring for my sister and brother.

A song comes to mind – The Magic Penny Song:

*Love is like a magic penny  
Hold it tight and you won't have any.*



*Lend it spend it and you'll have so many  
They'll roll all over the floor.*

*Love is something if you give it away,  
give it away, give it away.  
Love is something if you give it away,  
you end up having more.*

*Malvina Reynolds*

Or ask me when you see me and I'll sing it to you, complete with actions!  
May you know God's love day by day. **Helen**

---

## **February Services**

6 February – 10.30am		Mr John Summerwill
13 February – 10.30am	Holy Communion & Zoom	Revd Helen White
20 February – 10.30am		Revd Becki Stennett
27 February –10.30am	All age worship	Revd Helen White

---

### **Monday Coffee Morning**

Monday coffee mornings are going well. Please come and join us between 10:00am and 11:30am if you would like someone to talk to while you enjoy a drink. If you are able to spare some time to help us then that would be much appreciated.

### **Table Top Sales - 5th February and 5th March**

The sales are still running with a reduced number of tables to keep us as safe as possible. Unfortunately, we are still unable to re-open the Saturday coffee morning but why not pop in anyway for a chat and to see what there is for sale

*If you would like a table, at a cost of £5 for church funds, please see Lynda at church or phone 07799 094472.*

**Ladies Friendship 2021-22 Programme**  
**January - May 2022**

**Ladies Friendship 2021-22 programme January - May 2022**

2.30pm in the Wesley Room on the second & fourth Tuesdays of the month.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Speaker/event</b>
11/01/2022	Bingo (Carol) & Quiz (Pauline)
25/01/2022	Mick Durkin - 'Marathon Man'
08/02/2022	Speaker from Yorkshire Air Ambulance
22/02/2022	Rev Helen White - 'Coast to Coast on the Caledonian Canal'
08/03/2022	Silent Auction for Charity
22/03/2022	David Laycock - 'Alice Springs & Ayers Rock, the Australian Centre'
12/04/2022	Making an Easter garden & Hot Cross Buns
26/04/2022	Jackie Depelle - 'Chasing Million Eyres: From Leeds to Siberia' - an accidental family history discovery led to amazing co-incidents.
10/05/2022	Programme planning and AGM
24/05/2022	End of term lunch

---

**East Leeds History & Archaeology Society**

Friday **28th January** 2.00pm - Jacki & Bob Lawrence will present an illustrated talk: "Leeds in World War Two"

Friday **25th February** 2.00pm - Jane Ellis will present an illustrated talk: "Around the UK in Classic Railway Posters"

Friday **25th March** 2.00pm - Roy Cressey will present an illustrated talk: "A Whistle-stop tour of England and Wales"

Talks take place in the Methodist Church Hall Cross Gates and all are welcome. Covid precautions will be in place. Please wear a mask.

**Admission £2.00**

## A message from our Senior Steward

Hello Everyone, Happy New Year.

All the Christmas services at Cross Gates went really well, and seem to have been enjoyed by everyone. The decorations looked good despite being a bit lower key than before covid. Every service was different and meaningful. I don't know how Helen does it.

You will all have heard by now that nationally some restrictions have been reduced, we now only have to isolate for 5 days as long as we have 2 negative Lateral flow tests on days 5 and 6. In Leeds however the numbers of cases of covid are still high so for the moment our restrictions remain the same. We will let you all know as soon as our 'covid response team' decide it is safe to change them. If you strongly disagree with anything we are doing please tell us and we will discuss it at our meetings.

All our church groups are meeting again: –

**Ladies' group** alternate Tuesday afternoons, (2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> weeks) at 2.30

**Men's group** 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday at 2 pm

**Devotional group** 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays at 10.30

(See the notice boards for more information)

Helen is planning running a Lent group again. More details about that soon. Also if you would like a Lent Diary please let me know so I can arrange for them to be ordered. There is usually a small charge or donation.

Last year seemed a strange year; that passed in a haze of uncertainty. Let's hope and pray for a New Year that is more 'normal' more 'straightforward' more 'consistent' and be thankful for all the good things that have happened.

Love and Prayers,

**Barbara.**

## **World Day of Prayer service, 2pm on 4th March 2022** **At Cross Gates Methodist Church**

The World Day of Prayer service is held annually on the first Friday in March. It is prepared by women from a different country each year. This year's service has been prepared by Christian women from England, Wales and Northern Ireland. The service for people from all the Churches in LS15 will be held this year at Cross Gates Methodist Church, at 2pm on 4th March. All welcome.

---

### **Remembering Anne Martin**

Anne Martin died at the beginning of January, less than two weeks after her husband Bill. Anne was an integral member of our Church for more than sixty years but was one of those people who hated the limelight and was much happier washing up than taking centre stage.

Beryl Gledhill described her as a 'special person, full of love for others'.

Myra Rowlands said 'Anne was a very caring neighbour and I shall never forget her helping me when I had returned home from hospital after an operation. She always had a smile and would call regularly to see if I needed anything. She frequently picked up medication for me and sometimes odd items of shopping as I was housebound for a while. I was very saddened to hear of her loss and Anne will be remembered fondly for her great kindness. R.I.P. Anne'.

Tracy Dick recounted that Anne helped her in so many ways when her daughter was young and her parents became ill. Anne would babysit, occasionally take Jessica to school and looked after a young member of the family so everyone could attend the funerals. Anne's response when given flowers for being so supportive was 'I do this for love, not flowers'.

Cynthia Best said 'Anne was a great Pastoral visitor for many years. She was also one of a team of ladies always on hand to do Harvest teas and funeral teas for Church members'.

**A joint funeral for Anne and Bill will be held at Lawnswood at the beginning of February. Details have not yet been confirmed. Helen will be conducting the service so please contact her in a couple of weeks for further information.**

## **Spotlight on.....Brenda Dean**

As far back as I can remember, I attended Salem Sunday School near Leeds Bridge. We lived in Hunslet in the 'back to backs'. My sister, who was 11 years older than I, took me as she helped with the Sunday School. My brother was 13 years older than I and he helped with the scouts, until he was called up into the army. He was in the D day landings at the age of 18, like many others would have been. He survived the landings, but was shot, and he was air lifted back to hospital in Birmingham. When he recovered he was sent back to the army, but this time, to the war in North Africa. Fortunately he survived the war.

Our family moved house in 1949 as the 'back to backs' were being cleared for modern development. We moved into a modern flat development in the Holbeck district of Leeds. I became friends with a girl who lived in the same block of flats and as we grew older, she started going out with a boyfriend. Eventually I was introduced to one of his friends who was serving in the army and was home on a weekend pass. This was Brian, my future husband to be. Brian lived in Beeston and he helped with the scouts at the Church he attended. This was St Mary's C of E across the road from where he lived. We were married there in 1958. We were soon in the process of buying a 'back to back' house in the Holbeck area.

I was employed in the tailoring trade as a machinist and I had worked for many companies. When I got married I carried on working for a number of years at the Co-op Mantle factory on a part-time basis. This was on the Mint just the other side of Holbeck Moor. Brian worked in the Metallurgy office of the Yorkshire Copper Works in Hunslet. Whilst working there he privately took a correspondence course in accountancy and an opportunity arose for him at the Lloyds Bank which he applied for and was successful in securing the position.

We moved to Cross Gates in 1962 as we had wanted a better house with a garden before we had any family. Barbara was born in March of that year and Colin was born three years later. Stephen was born in 1972. We began attending Cross Gates Church around 1970/71. It was our neighbours, Tom and Joyce Nowland who had told us about this Church that they had just got a new Minister Rev. Ken Taylor. They were very enthusiastic about it so we thought we would start attending. We were very comfortable there and everyone was so friendly.

Once we had got established, I became a Sunday School Teacher in the Primary department. A few months later I was asked if I would move to Upper Juniors, which I did. Back then the Junior Department was so large



that they had to split it into two units. I am sure many of you will remember.

Brian has also got himself involved with the Church, by helping out with the scouts when it was Scout Camp. I remember going with them and taking Stephen with us. It was great fun and Colin who was a scout, was also with us. Brian was also the Property Treasurer and looked after the heating which was then fuelled by oil. Many was the time Barbara and Colin were roped in to help, as every time there was a delivery of oil, the tank overflowed. They had to go into the cellar and clear it up. The heating then was turned on/off manually and valves on pipes in the Church had to be opened and closed on Sat/Sun. Brian had to go down early on Sunday morning to make sure the heating had come on! He did that for 30 years. Brian had to stop seeing to the heating due to serious illness and the heating had been changed to a computerised system. It certainly made life easier (no more oil to clean up).

Many people knew of Brian's love of walking in the Yorkshire Dales. He was asked if he would lead a walk for the Church people who enjoyed such outings which he did. Out of this came the Cross Gates Rambling Club. I was involved with the Ladies Friendship Group for many years including being President and Secretary for six years. During this time Barbara had become a guide and gained her Queens Guide Award. She had also become a Venture Scout, once girls were allowed – this was due to the efforts of David Leeming. Barbara also became a Lay Preacher before the university took her away.

Dorothy and Keith Walker knew us when we came to Church as Dorothy's father and her brother played the organ at the Salem Congregational Church, so they knew the Salem people quite well. They took me to the last service there. Sadly I lost Brian on 4<sup>th</sup> January 2009 but in conclusion I have spent (with Brian) 50 happy, memorable years at Cross Gates Methodist Church in which I have made some very good friends.

---

### **A Prayer**

Give to us, Lord, the peace of those who have learnt to serve you, the joy of those who are glad to obey you and the delight of those who rejoice in your praise: through Christ our Lord. Amen

**Aidan of Lindisfarne (d.651)**

**Leeds South & East Foodbank (Trussell Trust):** In December our Church, plus Tranquility Court delivered 13 baskets of food/toiletries to the Distribution Centre, weighing 191Kg plus cash of £60. Everything was gratefully received. As well as the essential foods we were able to give some of the little extras that we all enjoy at Christmas like Christmas puddings, biscuits, sweets and chocolates. **If you would like to contribute food/toiletries please contact John Best email [jvbest39@hotmail.com](mailto:jvbest39@hotmail.com) who will gladly collect.**

**Condolences:** Please remember in your prayers Tracey, Stephen and Paul Martin and all the family and friends of Anne and Bill Martin.

**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.

**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.

**Your Financial Contributions:** Thank you to all those who continue to contribute to the Church's running costs. If you are unable to attend Church in person please continue sending them to Linda Booth (107 Woodland Road, Leeds, LS15 7DN) or to the Church's address.

**Newsletter:** Please email contributions for the Newsletter to Tracy Dick [tracylouisedick@gmail.com](mailto:tracylouisedick@gmail.com). Deadlines coming up: 18<sup>th</sup> March 2021, 22<sup>nd</sup> April.

#### **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**