



# CROSSGATES METHODIST CHURCH Newsletter March 2022

MINISTER: Rev Helen White

## Spring Cleaning

It's time for a bit of spring cleaning, or perhaps I should say, having a belated catch up on the cleaning that needs doing!! It's not my favourite pastime, but I prefer to live in a reasonably clean and tidy place, so it has to be done. The dust and dirt will be (very) temporarily banished, and the bath and sink will gleam; the rugs will be washed and the air will smell clean and fresh. The house will almost be ready for the sun to shine, and show me the corners that I missed, and the smears still on the windows.... Or perhaps it can wait a bit longer, after all, my friend and her dog will be visiting again, and the plumber is coming to fit a new toilet and hand basin – and that will make dust...

Of course, with the way my mind works, I started thinking about how this fitted with Lent. It can be seen as a season for an internal spring clean. But just as it's not much good if I only clean the house in spring, so it's no good only having an internal clean up in Lent – there's dusting and cleaning to be done all year round. Sin creeps back in, just as the dust and dirt are back in my house almost before the Hoover has had time to cool down. It can be good to have an annual clean when we're perhaps a bit more thorough (or is it only me who doesn't move the furniture most of the time?). The same applies to our lives – we need the times of reflection and tidying up as well as the times of celebration. And just like me and cleaning my house, we can easily find good reasons to delay our clear out. Is it worth doing when it's only going to get dirty again? Is it worth clearing out the sin when we know we'll only mess up again?

Lent was initially a time of preparation for those who were to be baptised, or welcomed back into the church, at Easter. It was a time for prayer, and learning, and growth in faith, and yes, a time for a spiritual spring clean. It is still a time for us to reflect on our journey of faith. How is my relationship with God? Are there dark corners that need dusting out, sin that needs to be confessed, anything that needs to be changed? Am I ready for the bright light of Easter? As we journey through Lent, and March, the dawn chorus will grow, as more birds join in to welcome the spring mornings. Following our Lenten spring clean, will we be ready to join in the Easter chorus, welcoming the dawn of new life: 'Alleluia! Christ is risen!'

May you journey with Jesus through Lent, paying attention to your relationship with God, that together we can welcome the risen Christ next month. **Helen**

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### **March Services**

2 March – 7.30pm	Ash Wednesday	
4 March – 2.00pm	World Day of Prayer	
6 March – 10.30am	Holy Communion	Revd Kerry Tankard
13 March – 10.30am		Revd Philip Chilvers
20 March – 10.30am	& on Zoom	Revd Helen White
27 March – 10.30am	Mothering Sunday	Mr Steven Jones

### **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.**"

## Lent Groups

From week commencing 6<sup>th</sup> March Lent Groups led by the Rev. Helen White will start. They will take place:

**Mondays at 7.30pm** via zoom (if you need the link, contact Helen)

**Wednesdays at 2pm**, in person, at Christ Church.

*All are welcome*

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## Equal Marriage Discussion Tuesday March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 7.30pm, Church Hall

There have been on-going discussions about marriage and relationships over recent years. Last July, the Methodist Conference, reached a decision that within the Methodist Church two equally valid views are held. Some are convinced that marriage can only be between one man and one woman; others that marriage can be between any two adults. We live with these contradictory convictions. As a result of the Conference decision, each local Church Council is asked to decide whether or not to register their building for same sex weddings. On Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> March at 7.30pm there will be an open meeting at Cross Gates, in the Hall, so that we can talk and listen to one another's views on this. If the conversations suggest we are ready to do so, the Church Council members will then vote on whether or not to register Cross Gates Methodist Church for same sex weddings. Only Church Council members may vote, but everyone is welcome to be part of the conversations.

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## Easter

14 April - 7.30pm	Maunday Thursday ( <i>Colton</i> )	All welcome
15 April – 11am	Good Friday ( <i>Cross Gates</i> )	Churches Together Reading of the Passion
15 April – 7.30pm	Good Friday ( <i>Christ Church</i> )	All welcome A Reflective Service
17 April – Time TBC	Easter Breakfast ( <i>Cross Gates</i> )	Covid Permitting
17 April - 10.30am	Easter Day ( <i>Cross Gates</i> )	Holy Communion Rev. Joyce Nicholson

## **Rev. Helen White's Sabbatical**

Helen will be taking sabbatical leave from 25th April to 25th July 2022. During this time, Revd Tanya Short will be available to cover anything that needs a minister. Worship at Home sheets are being prepared by a rota of people, then printed and delivered as usual. Tracy Dick will email the Worship at Home sheets to those who receive the material that way.

## **Table Top Sales - 5th March & 2nd April** **9.30am to 12 noon**

We would like to thank everyone who has kindly donated items for us to sell. Why not come along and see the wide variety of items for sale?

*If you would like a table, at a cost of £5 for church funds, please see Lynda at Church*

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## **Church Groups – Wesley Room**

**Men's Group** – 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays of the month at 2pm

**Ladies Fellowship** – 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays of the month at 2.30pm

**Devotional Class** – Every other Thursday at 10.30am

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## **East Leeds History & Archaeology Society**

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

Friday **29th April** 2.00pm – Illustrated talk by Jim Jackson: "The History of Middleton Park."

Friday **27th May** 2.00pm – Illustrated talk by Dr Christine Holdstock: "A History of Dyes from Ancient Egypt to Leeds."

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**

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

In January our Church plus Tranquility Court delivered 12 baskets of food / toiletries to the Distribution Centre, weighing 150KG plus cash of £40. Everything was gratefully received. If you would like to contribute food/toiletries there is a basket in the Galilee or contact John Best on email [jvbest39@hotmail.com](mailto:jvbest39@hotmail.com) - who will gladly arrange to collect. In the Financial year between 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020 and 31st March 2021, food banks in the Trussell Trust's UK wide network distributed 2.5 million emergency food parcels to people in crisis, a 33% increase on the previous year - 980,000 of these went to children.

*"No one should face the indignity of needing emergency food. Yet our network of Food Banks has given out record numbers of food parcels as more and more people struggle for the essentials. This is not right but we know we can build a better future. This pandemic has shown the unexpected can hit suddenly, but we know when we push for change, united by our desire for justice and compassion, the Government has to listen and act."* **Emma Revie. Chief Executive**

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### **A Prayer for Ukraine**

**Dear Lord**

*Author of all peace who through your son reconciled us to yourself, we pray for peace in our world at a time of heightened tensions.*

*We pray*

*for our governments and political leaders – for wise counsel and sound initiative to defuse tension*

*for diplomats – that they may have space to negotiate*

*for the people of Ukraine – that their close ties with the people of Russia and other neighbours will remain strong even in the face of military threat.*

*We pray that all governments commit time to dialogue and understanding, respect the will and freedom of all peoples, invest in welfare and alleviation of poverty and reject militarism and the threat of violence.*

*May Christ's teaching and example be our inspiration, may hearts and minds be changed, and may your holy spirit be at work transforming each of us day by day.*

***Through your everlasting grace and mercy. Amen***

## Spotlight on..... June Holliday

Thank you friends for allowing me to tell you a little bit about myself. I was born on the 30th July 1950 in Nevile Walk, Osmondthorpe. I went to Osmondthorpe school till I was 7 then went to Parklands till I was 11, then I went to Coldcotes secondary modern where I finished my education. I had 4 brothers Alan, Ronnie, Colin and Lawrence who have all have passed away now. My last brother, my youngest passed away in December 2018. My Mum Gladys was only partially sighted and my Dad Willie was totally blind and never saw any of us.

My Mum was my Dad's eyes and I was my Mum's eyes. I attended St Philip's Osmondthorpe where I was christened and confirmed then I started going to St Wilfrid's where I was a parishioner for 41 years and became a born again Christian. I loved it there and had made many friends. We were like a family all brothers and sisters in Christ.

When I left school at 14 I went into tailoring which was my Dad's choice not mine. I wanted to be a dental receptionist or a nurse. I started work at Montague Burton on Hudson Road and was there 7 years. I had a lot of happy times there then I left there and went to Hepworths on Clay Pit Lane.

I had no social life until 2018 (more on that further on).

My Mum passed away in December 1977 and that's when my social life was put on the back burner where it simmered till 2018.

After my Mum died, I gave up working to become my Dad's full time carer because the onus was on me with me been the only girl - well boys will be boys and my brothers all wanted to have fun and left it all to me.

Lawrence who was known as the black sheep of the family clung to me because none of my other brothers asked him to join in with them. My other brothers went everywhere together they stuck together like glue. Then when my Dad passed away in 1992 I became a full time carer to Lawrence who suffered health problems although he was quite healthy when he was younger. We lived together in the same house; a 3 bedroom in Wykebeck Place for 30 years but I never had a life I could call my own. I didn't go out and I was what they call a loner. It was like that for the 30 years.

Lawrence's last 6 years were the worst for him and me. He was diagnosed with COPD and over the years he deteriorated and spent more time in casualty. I had to accompany him and I missed going to Church because I kept having sleepless nights. I was always happy when

I went to Church and it kept me going through the hard times. The Church has always been my rock since I started going.

After Lawrence died in 2018, I was at a complete loss I didn't know what to do. I had no friends and no social life but it didn't really bother me as I had had a quiet life and I was happy in my own sweet way. I never once got depressed and I kept thinking positively every day. I never reached out to anyone after Lawrence passed away. My positivity and God's spirit in me gave me the strength to carry on.

Then one day after Lawrence died I was sitting in my chair and was looking out of my window and I realised there was a world outside the 4 walls and I just had to pluck up courage to get outside into the world. I felt like I had been a tortoise all my life and it was time to come out of my shell. It was pure joy when it happened and it felt like a bud that had burst open and I've been flourishing ever since. I clenched my fist and cried tears of joy and said 'I'm free'. I cried for nearly 2 hours - I couldn't help it but they were tears of joy.

I then joined Cross Gates Good Neighbours and that's when a new world opened up for me and my social life went from zero to where I am now. I am always out and about with something to do every day, new challenges awaiting and new goals. I have met loads of new friends there and am making more each day. I feel really blessed.

But my blessings didn't end there - God blessed me with a new home here in Tranquility Court in the very heart of Cross Gates. I couldn't ask for a better place to live and I feel God has moved me here to do His will. God has loved me so much and my heart is overflowing. I've enough love in me to fill an ocean and I know there are a lot of folk out there that don't know Love and I just want to share it with them and with my new family at Cross Gates Methodist Church where I am now. I was made a member just a couple of months back. Cross Gates Methodist Church comes out top for friendliness and welcome and I LOVE YOU ALL

Thank you all for allowing me to tell you a bit about myself and as I come to get to know more of you over time and get to know your names I'll hold you all in my heart and pray for each one of you that you too will live and grow and move in the power of the spirit

God Bless you all always. Love June Holliday

***If you would like to join in and offer a few words about your life to feature in future newsletters please send them to Tracy Dick (see the back page for contact details)***

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**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.

**Date for your Diary:** The Church's AGM will take place after the Sunday morning service on 5<sup>th</sup> June 2022. All welcome to attend.

**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, the Church's address.

### **Thanks from Leeds Cruse Bereavement Support:**

*The following message was received from the Hub Administrator:*

'Thank you for your very generous donation of £96.50 which was warmly received. Please pass on our thanks and gratitude to the Church for the retiring collection following the memorial service on 28.11.21. As we are a charity, every penny counts and your kind donation will be put towards the support we offer to our bereaved clients'.

**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 2022, 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**

*Cross Gates Methodist Church, Austhorpe Road, Cross Gates, Leeds, LS15 8QR*