



**CROSSGATES
METHODIST CHURCH
Newsletter
April 2022**

MINISTER: Rev Helen White

Easter

Are you/have you been waiting for Easter Sunday so your Lenten Fast can end? Is it the chocolate, the biscuits or cake you're looking forward to? Or getting to the end of the Lent book you've been reading? The end of Lent was traditionally associated with certain foods – Hot Cross buns for Good Friday (even though you can now buy them most of the year); eggs and roast lamb for Easter Sunday. Perhaps your family has other foods you associate with Easter, but let's look at those I've mentioned. Hot cross buns first – what do they symbolise? The cross on the bun reminds us of Good Friday, that Jesus died on the cross. Originally there would only have been 5 sultanas representing the 5 wounds of Christ, and the spices included remind us of the spices used to anoint Jesus' body.

Lamb for Easter was a tradition I came across as an adult. Friends had lamb for Easter Sunday dinner for a number of reasons – it was seasonal, being springtime. It can also remind us of Jesus, the Lamb of God and the Passover being celebrated when Jesus had the Last Supper with his disciples.

And finally, the symbol we most often associate with Easter – the one that's been filling the shelves of the shop since Christmas stuff was cleared out – eggs. What do you think about as you choose an Easter

egg to give, or take the one you've been given out of its box and foil? Do you ever stop to think about its association with Easter? The Easter egg is often spoken of as a symbol of new life – the potential for life that is within the egg. But there is more to be seen in it than that. Think about an egg – rather dead looking– even stone like (the ordinary ones that is) – then think of the stone in front of the tomb on Good Friday. Open up your egg (I'm on chocolate ones now) – separate the two halves – what do you see? If its empty, remember the tomb on Easter morning – Jesus' body no longer there because he had risen – new life from death. If there are sweets, more chocolates, a toy or a filling – think of the surprise the friends of Jesus had when they went to the tomb and found the angel telling them that he was risen – a good surprise and a special gift – their friend with them for ever – and with us too. Whichever kind of egg you have at Easter this year, there is something in it to remind us of the events of that first Easter.

May the joy of new life rise in you this Easter. Helen

April Services (including Easter)

3 April – 10.30am	Passion Sunday	Mr Ted Britton
10 April – 10.30am	Palm Sunday & Zoom	Mr Paul Spencer
14 April – 7.30pm	Maunday Thursday (Colton)	All welcome
15 April – 11am	Good Friday (Cross Gates)	Churches Together Reading of the Passion
15 April – 7.30pm	Good Friday (Christ Church)	All welcome A Reflective Service
17 April – 9am *	Easter Breakfast (Cross Gates)	Covid Permitting
17 April - 10.30am	Easter Day (Cross Gates)	Holy Communion Rev. Joyce Nicholson

***Please let a Steward or Denise Durkin know if you will be joining us for Easter Breakfast.**

Table Top Sales - 2nd April & 7th May

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 or phone 0779 9094472.*

Saturday Coffee Morning

There have been requests for the Saturday Coffee Morning to re-open. Thanks to a lot of hard work by a few people the room is ready to use again but we need a few more volunteers to go on a rota to make the coffee. If are able to help please let a Steward know.

East Leeds History & Archaeology Society

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

A Message from our Senior Steward, Barbara Lloyd

Hello Everyone, I was woken up this morning at 5.15 by a blackbird singing its heart out and I thought yes Spring is here. It seems to have been a long winter.

A couple of weeks ago we reduced our Covid restrictions, but unfortunately we then had a small cluster of cases of Covid amongst our Church family and we reluctantly decided to tighten them up again and recommend the wearing of masks during the service. We have had still more cases this week. I understand everyone was upset - not least Raymond Winders who has asked me to tell people who know him he is now in Sunnyside Nursing Home on Marshall Street. He had intended to come to church last week but I advised him not to and he was devastated. Hopefully we will see him worshipping again with us soon.

We will let you know at the door each week, what we advise about restrictions. I would like to thank you for you co-operation, it has made our job so much easier when making these decisions. Just to say again, please do not come to church if you have any symptoms of covid, or a positive covid test and remember... Spring is round the corner!

Love and prayers, Barbara

Memories of Mark Taylor

Jonathan Mark Taylor died on 24th February peacefully in York District Hospital. A beloved son, partner, brother, dad and granddad. Donations in Mark's memory for Shelter because it was a charity he supported.

In the 70s and 80s when I knew Mark Taylor best he was a central part of life at Crossgates Methodist Church. As teenagers and young adults back then we spent so much time at Church that it would be difficult to pinpoint one particular memory but Mark was always involved with what was going on. His laugh would make you feel like you had said the funniest thing ever. He was a true friend to me on several occasions when I needed one and I am sure many other people would say the same. The news of his death made me so sad. May he rest in peace. **Linda Booth**

My favourite memory of Mark happened in the late 1980's in Scarborough. This tale has been re-told on numerous occasions & always makes me smile.

The Young People's Department used to go on an annual day trip to Scarborough in summer, usually July. We would catch the train from Crossgates & on arrival make our way to the south side beach where Barbara & Jean, on their holidays, would meet us. We played games on the sand, had a picnic lunch, then went our separate ways, meeting at the station in the early evening to catch the train back.

As the years passed & the YPD got smaller, we decided one year to hire a minibus instead of taking the train. It was dreadful weather - cloudy, misty & raining. The first incident happened on the way, not far from Castle Howard. Linda Booth was driving when a cyclist rode into us from a side road. Thankfully no harm was done & he was dusted down & we carried on.

We arrived in Scarborough & Linda parked the minibus at the south side near the Spa, parallel to the sea wall. Mark was sitting nearest the door, so he slid it back, stepped out & was immediately engulfed by an enormous wave that had come over the top of the wall. We all fell about laughing & Mark to his credit took it in good stead. My diary entry for that day reads "Scarborough - poured it down all day, got soaked". Not as soaked as Mark though!

I had only been talking about this incident with my sister Andrea the day before we heard the sad news about Mark. **Alison Lambert**

You could say that Mark is the reason I am a member of Cross Gates Methodist Church. We were at school together and always got on well. I

used to go to Manston St James C of E Church and the associated Youth Club. But Mark made his Youth Club sound so much better – he was there of course at the centre of a fun group of young people. So I tried out the Methodist Youth Club and Young People’s Department and here I still am. Church and Youth Club were so important to us at that time – you would do anything rather than miss attending. I will always remember his crazy hair and kind, caring personality. **Tracy Dick**

Mark and Music is my memory. Mark playing the drums at church and for the show Oz is OK, an original rock musical loosely based on the Wizard of Oz - but modernised! We performed the show under the Leeds Art Theatre banner at the Civic Theatre, a couple of schools including Temple Moor and enjoyed three packed nights at the Bradford Alhambra in the 1970s. For us teenagers they were exciting times and we made the most of them! The offshoot was the Howard Ellis Band and again Mark was the drummer. The band had a great following and played gigs around Leeds - a favourite venue being Wigs Wine Bar in The Headrow, where we danced on the tables! I was also at school with Mark from Manston to Abbey Grange and although as adults we lost touch as our lives took different paths, he has always held a place in my heart, as a friend whose early years were intertwined through school, church, the show and the band - great fun, great memories and Mark was simply the best.

Sarah Beadsworth (nee Cousin)

Prince of peace,
Lord of light,
God of grace,
As we hear of war and invasion,
We pray to you for peace.
In a world of conflict and violence,
We pray for all who live in fear,
Especially today the people of Ukraine.
We lament with you,
And pray for peace,
Prince of peace,
Lord of light,
God of grace,
Show me how to pray for peace today. Amen.

World Day of Prayer Report

The World Day of Prayer service took place on 4th March at Cross Gates and was led by people from five different churches. Over 40 people from many of the Churches in LS15 attended. The service was based on Jeremiah chapter 29 verse 11: "For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope". We heard the true stories of three British women who found themselves living in difficult situations - in 'exile' due to poverty, fear, isolation - and of how God's plans for them have blessed them in unexpected ways.



The service is prepared each year by women from different countries and this year it was the turn of England, Wales and Northern Ireland. The table display had the national flowers of roses, daffodils and flax, with different coloured paper figures symbolising our diversity. The seven candles represent the seven regions of the WDP organisation. The offering raised over £250 to support projects

for people in need all over the world.

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

The following information was received from the Development Manager of the Foodbank: "I would like to thank you and all your congregation at Cross Gates Methodist Church for all your donations over the last 12 months. Your donations of food over the years have been invaluable. Despite continuing to work in difficult circumstances and having a very busy Winter we have begun to focus on our longer term vision. We are working towards ending the need to use foodbanks, we want our clients to have enough money for the basics and to have the dignity to make choices. We've begun talking to change-makers in the city, championing our clients and listening to and sharing their lived experience and changing the way that we speak about foodbank usage.

We are experiencing a time of economic turmoil and many more people and families in the local area need our services.

Your exceptional donation of 2078.26kg of food has enabled us to provide 2,598 meals. Thank you"

In February we delivered a further 12 boxes of food weighing 192kg.

Spotlight on.....Hazel Watson

I was born on 14th June 1942 at St Luke's hospital in Bradford. We lived in Heath Terrace at the time. I have always been adventurous and even at 3 years old I would back out through the hedge to join the children at the Catholic school just down the road, at their playtime. So I was tied up with a long rope to keep me in the garden and to stop me escaping. I went to Lapage Street School at 3 years old. My teacher was Miss Marshall – all the teachers were spinsters at that time since men were away at war. I loved school and being with other children and making friends with girls and boys alike. I also went with my parents to Church at Eastbrook Hall in the centre of Bradford. We moved to Leeds in the centre of the city and my father did not want my mum to go out to work so that is why they bought a sweet and cigarette shop on Woodhouse Street. I used to walk down Meanwood Road to Clowes Methodist Church. I loved going to Church and when I was 15 I became leader of the Morning Sunday School. I loved this role and did it for 3 years until I went away to Dudley Teacher Training College in Worcestershire. I lived in a hostel there and had my own room in the building. We shared a small kitchen downstairs making snacks but the main kitchen downstairs served breakfast and dinner at set times. There was a duty room where two students were expected to be on duty until 10pm when all students had to be back in the hostel. I was not good at Maths so had to go for extra lessons with the Maths professor on Saturday mornings. I didn't like going but it really did help me. The professor was very patient. We also used to go to Revd Alan Dale's house on Sundays where we had discussions and could ask Revd Dale anything we wanted to know. At this time I made friends with three young students and I am still friends with them all after all this time. We sometimes go away on holiday together or meet up at a holiday destination and rent a cottage. In the past we have met up at Scarborough, Whitby, Blackpool, Fort William, Mallaig, Gairloch and Ullapool. It's getting a bit more difficult now we are older so we may choose a venue and take a coach trip there. I love Whitby and Fort William but getting there is not as easy as it was. Since I retired from teaching – and I used to teach Sunday School for a while – I don't do any formal teaching now, but I am always interested in young people. I sometimes talk to parents with children and try to encourage them to come to Church on Sundays. But now, so many parents do not want to be tied down on Sundays and Sunday School levels are very low. I like to talk to children but parents are very protective and are afraid that their children could be abducted or even abused if they talk to strangers. I still talk to people who sit on the Church bench and tell them about Jesus and God's love, in the hope that a little seed might grow.

Condolences: to Mary Taylor and all the Taylor family on the very sad death of their beloved son, brother, partner, father and grandfather Mark at the age of 61 years.

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.

Foodbank: If you would like to contribute food/toiletries for the foodbank please bring them to Church or contact John Best email jvbest39@hotmail.com who will gladly collect.

Date for your Diary: The Church's AGM will take place after the Sunday morning service on 5th 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 or to the Church's address.

Newsletter: 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. Please email contributions for the Newsletter to Tracy Dick tracylouisedick@gmail.com Deadlines coming up: 22nd April, 20th May.

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