



**CROSSGATES
METHODIST CHURCH
Newsletter
June 2022**

MINISTER: Rev Helen White (on sabbatical until 25th July)

Dear Friends,

June is always such a lovely month, the warmer weather, longer hours of daylight and a freshness of colour and vibrancy in the air makes it feel like a hopeful month. Pentecost too is a season in the church which has an air of hope attached to it. For many years within the Methodist Church it was one of the festivals that appeared to get overlooked.

As I child I remember Christmas and Easter but not much of anything else punctuating the liturgical year. Pentecost is often thought of as the “birthday” of the church. Birthdays can of course be mixed blessings, some of us love to celebrate them and others prefer to keep them concealed, playing them down or even ignoring them altogether. It would be a shame if we ignored the season of Pentecost in the same way. It is bright, full of colour, joyous, full of excitement, if not tinged with a little bit of uncertainty or even fear as the “what happens next” begins to slowly sink in. The story goes that all the Disciples were gathered in one place when the Holy Spirit descended upon them, as if like tongues of fire resting on their heads. A mighty wind swept through the space and those gathered were filled with God’s Holy Spirit. The imagery is powerful. Perhaps it is not language we would use today but the founder of Methodism John Wesley described his encounter with God’s Spirit as that of having his heart strangely warmed.

I have, over the course of my 56 years, been in gatherings where it has felt like God’s presence has been sweeping through the venue. I have had that experience of God’s presence being like having your heart strangely warmed as I have quietly contemplated upon God’s word. Experiences like this are transformational and stay with us, memories that we can revisit when perhaps life is a bit of a struggle. God will find a way

that is unique to each and every one of us, if and when we are open to receive.

I believe we don't speak often enough about our encounters with God. I wonder why? Is it because we fear we will not be believed, thought of as strange or because we even consider that these kinds of encounters are for the few? I believe that God wants to bless all of us with an overwhelming sense of presence, it might just be that we have not recognised it in our lives. Talking, as they say, helps each of us to understand. There is no one set formula, all we need to be is open to the opportunity. So as Pentecost (June 5th) approaches and we remember those Disciples so long ago becoming empowered by God's Holy Spirit, may we be open to receive in whatever way God sees fit. Until next month,

God Bless, Tanya

June Services

5 June – 10.30am	Holy Communion	Revd Tanya M Short
12 June – 10.30am	& Zoom	Mr Steven Jones
19 June – 10.30am		Revd Joyce Nicholson
26 June – 10.30am		Dr Madeleine Andrews

Communion Stewards for May are John Blyth & Roy Cressey

Church AGM **Sunday 5th June, after Church Service**

To nominate a Church Member to sit on the Church Council then please contact Barbara. As you know a number of people sit on the Church Council as a result of positions they hold in Church however there are between 6 and 15 elected seats available. Anyone voted onto the Church Council last year ago will need nominating again if they are willing to serve for another year. If you would like more information about serving on the Church Council, please speak to one of the Stewards.

Nominations for Stewards would be very welcome. If you are a Church Member and would like to know more about being a Steward please have a word with Barbara Lloyd, John Blyth or Cedric Robinson.

Table Top Sales

4 June & 2 July 9.30am to 12noon

The sale and coffee morning are steadily getting back to what they were a couple of years ago.

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

Wednesday Group – 2.30pm Wesley Room

1 June	Christine Holdstock presents her Austrian Adventure
8 June	Bring memorabilia of our Queen to celebrate her 75 year reign
15 June	Life at Cross Gates Good Neighbours – Jo Horsfall
22 June	Leonaora Cohen the ‘Tower Suffragette’ – Jackie & Bob Lawrence
29 June	Bring antiques/collectables to receive a valuation from David Oddy

All welcome

Thursday Devotional Class

It was sadly agreed on 5th May at the AGM of the Devotional Class that due to the increasing age of the members and the small numbers attending, this class would have to close. We have enjoyed and valued the fellowship and friendliness of these Thursday morning meetings over a number of years. It was agreed the outstanding amount of the funds be given to the Church and a donation made to the South & East Leeds Food Bank.

Ladies Friendship Group Silent Auction

Well done ladies we raised £80 for Zarach (beds for kids), a great amount considering there were only 14 of us.

Thank you again. Carol Smith.

All We Can
Methodist Relief and Development

We have received the following letter of thanks:

Thank you for your generous gift of £553.86 to All We Can and the Methodist's Church in Britain's Ukraine Emergency Appeal.

Working together with the Global Relationship's Team of the Methodist Church in Britain, your gift will be put straight into action to support the response to the crisis, ensuring critical humanitarian assistance is available to those who need it.

As communities face violence, upheaval and the trauma of war, your urgent support is vital.

We urge you also to pray for the people of Ukraine today. You can find prayers and worship resources to help you respond at allwecan.org.uk/ukraine-emergency-appeal.

Because of your support, All We Can's vital work continues.

Glorious God, our world is not as you would have it.

Our Systems, our leaders and we ourselves fall short of your glory.

Where potential is not fulfilled, may your kingdom come:

May all your creation have life and have it in all abundance.

Knowing your world is not as you would have it, may we hear your invitation to be part of the change and build your Church into a beacon of justice and joy. Amen

Tim Baker, local preacher and Churches Manager, All We Can

Leeds South and East Foodbank (Trussell Trust)
Helping local people in crisis

In April we delivered 12 baskets of varied food and toiletries to the Leeds South & East Food Bank Centre near Elland Road, which services 11 Trussell Trust Food Banks in our area. This was a total of 139Kg for the month. Thank you for your continued contribution. It is unfortunate but we see on TV, or read in the newspapers, that the need to use Food Banks is growing.

If you would like to contribute food/toiletries please contact John Best , email jvbest39@hotmail.com who will gladly collect.

Thoughts from Barbara Lloyd, our Senior Steward

One Sunday recently we sang hymn 141 'Abide with Me.' A hymn often sung at funerals. It brought back a distant memory.

My Dad and brother were avid rugby fans and supported Hunslet. We lived in Beeston, so Hunslet was their local team. In 1965, against all the odds, as they were a small local club, not wealthy or had the huge following of Wigan or St. Helen's, they managed to get to Wembley to play in the cup final. My brother persuaded me (I think I may mean 'bribed' me) to go with him to watch. I would have been 17, he is a year younger than me. I barely remember anything about the actual match, I know they played Wigan and they didn't win but the people in the know said it was a good game. One of the best!

The thing I do remember, as clearly as if it was yesterday was the communal singing before the match, when many thousands of people sang 'Abide with me'. I had never heard anything like it and probably never will again. I think now, why sing that particular hymn at a rugby match?

I realised the other Sunday when we sang it, that it is an appropriate hymn to sing anytime, anywhere wherever we are - working, watching sport, playing sport, shopping, walking. Waking, sleeping. Whatever we are doing. We want God to abide with us.

Verse 3 says:

I need your presence every passing hour;

what but your grace can foil the tempter's power?

who like you, my guide and stay can be?

through cloud and sunshine Lord abide with me.

I pray that through all the 'clouds' of the present time, he abides in us all.
Love and Prayers, Barbara Lloyd

Standing at the Church door after the service, the Minister asked a small boy if he had enjoyed the service. Back came the reply: 'The music was fine but I thought the commercial was too long.'

History Corner

1897

By this time the village of Cross Gates was growing quite quickly and a post office was opened in Station Road. Bass's drapers shop also opened and was to become one of the enduring features of the village.

1898

Manston Infectious Diseases Hospital was built and it was here that the Cross Gates people were taken when suffering from Scarlet Fever and other diseases regarded as highly infectious and potentially dangerous.

1899

About this time the Cross Gates Police Station was built giving Cross Gates the reassuring presence of a village policeman. The Boer War also began and Cross Gates men enlisted in the ranks to serve Queen and Empire.

1901

A year full of event as the nation mourned the death of Queen Victoria and celebrated the beginning of the Edwardian era with the succession of Edward VII. Technological advances which were to affect everybody's way of life were also made and people marvelled at the news that the first transatlantic wireless message had been transmitted. In Cross Gates the year was marked by the closing of the school on Austhorpe Road and the opening of the new Manston School in Sandbed Lane.

1902 -1905

With the ending of the Boer War change and expansion continued in Cross Gates: in the immediate neighbourhood of the Church the building of houses in Tranquility was started and in 1905 the first covered shopping area was built on Austhorpe Road known as 'The Arcade' providing initially a sweetshop, outfitters, stationers, butchers, confectioners, boot shop and cycle shop.

Nor was cycling the only means of travel. The rail service was good and in 1903 the railway line was altered to four tracks, the station improved and a footbridge made.

The electric tramcar service which had previously finished at Victoria Avenue was extended in 1904 to the Weigh House at Halton Dial.

Extracted from the booklet 'Highlights & Milestones which was compiled by Jean English and Michael Teal in 1982.

Spotlight on..... Denise Durkin

I went to Sunday school in Beeston I think I was sent with my sister so mum could have some more 'me' time. I joined the Brownies and then the Guides and when we move to Morley I carried on with the Guides. The new estate in a Morley had a grass class, where we sang and had a mini service.

When I started work I didn't go to Church for a while. Then I started going back to church in my early twenties. I married my first husband at Burley Methodist Church. A move to Leeds 9 followed where I went to a Baptist Church that was the nearest to my house. When I then moved to Cross Gates I still carried on attending the Baptist Church. Eventually it closed down however as not enough people were going; which reflects on today's issues.

I started to attend Cross Gates Methodist Church and Ken Taylor was the Minister then. My son Adam was in the Sunday school and the Cubs followed by the Scouts. Elizabeth Carr and I took over running the Play School from Jean Tingle and Mary Dalby. We had a lovely time with the under fives and I also helped with Junior Church. After my divorce I had to take many jobs to fit around my son, one of which was as a lollipop lady on Cross Gates Road. Then I met my second husband Mick and he had two boys Michael and Andrew. We were married in Cross Gates Methodist Church by John Waterhouse, it was a lovely service. So we became a family of five. That was 30 years ago next year.

Mick and I now have also four grandchildren, Evie (13), Emmie (10) and 5 year old twin boys Riley and Leon. They have brought lots of joy into our life and we feel truly blessed!

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)

God of the morning and of our youth, awaken us to your blessed dawn.
God of midday and of our prime, direct our steps by your glorious Son.
God of evening and of our ageing, quieten us that we may rest in your grace.

God of night-time and of our death, enfold us in your loving darkness.
God of all our days. Amen.

Jenny Dyer, Superintendent, Stoke-on-Trent North Circuit

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.

Service Options: If there are any people or situations you would like included in the prayers in worship, please let Barbara Lloyd know by Saturday morning, (having got permission from the individual to be named in our prayers). Please do contact Barbara if you would like to receive details of worship via email or would like to have printed worship sheets delivered.

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.

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 do not attend Church, please continue sending them to Linda Booth at the Church's address. If you would like to change to contributing via **standing order** please get in touch with Amanda Brow. She can be contacted by email amandajbrow@gmail.com

Newsletter: I am always looking for ideas of what to feature in the newsletter. If there is anything you would like to see included please contact me. Also please email any contributions of your own to Tracy Dick tracylouisedick@gmail.com coming up: 23rd May, 20th June.

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