



CROSSGATES METHODIST CHURCH September 2022

MINISTER: Rev Helen White

Harvest of...?

The end of September brings our Harvest Festival. This year our windows take the theme 'A harvest of...' with each window exploring a different kind of harvest.

Harvest Festival comes round every year – because harvest comes round every year, well a lot more often than that really... and finding something appropriate to say in newsletter articles and in worship, without repeating myself, is a challenge. It's a challenge many preachers face.

I'm sure the Cross Gates windows will include the harvest of the sea, of the fields and orchards. Perhaps there'll be the harvest of nothing - remembering those who don't have a harvest to look forward to. Maybe the harvest of what's below the earth's surface: coal, gas, oil, ores, gems... As I pondered on the title: 'a harvest of...' my mind took a different route. Rather than focussing on those more traditional aspects of harvest, often represented in our displays of food, coal and water, I'm thinking about the harvest of relationships.

Poor relationships with others can lead to a harvest of ill feeling, disunity and brokenness. Poor relationships can be life limiting – the opposite of the abundant life God wants for us. On an international level, it can lead to war and violence.

Good relationships on the other hand can lead to a harvest of love, unity, growth and peace. On an international level, good relationships can help countries to develop and fulfil their potential. Good relationships can help us all to find life in all its fullness, just as Jesus promised his disciples.

What harvest is there from our relationships? Do they bear good fruit of peace, love, unity, harmony? And where relationships are damaged, I wonder what we can do to heal them. We need to start by being honest with ourselves. Is there anything I need to take responsibility for? Sometimes, there's not much we can do. We may have already done what we can and now we wait and pray.

One of our long standing relationships is with the FoodBank. On a practical level, I hope this year the harvest of love and relationships will include generous donations to the FoodBank as, sadly, it's going to be needed more than ever. Please bring suitable foods for the FoodBank over the next few weeks, and on the Sunday there will be a collection of money to buy further items for the FoodBank.

What we bring at harvest festival is just one aspect of harvest. The harvest continues all year round, including the harvest of love and relationships.

What will be the harvest of love in your relationships?

Helen

September Services

4th September (& zoom)	Holy Communion	Revd Helen White
11th September		Mrs Mary Curl
18th September		Revd Joyce Nicholson
25th September (& zoom)	Harvest Festival	Mr Andy Birkitt

The Communion Stewards for September are Carol Smith & Cynthia Best

We are asking for donations for the **Harvest Service** of suitable foods for the food bank that our Church has supported so willingly and generously over the years. You can bring your donations to Church any time over the coming weeks. There will also be a collection of money for the food bank so that extra items which are in particularly short supply can be purchased. It is likely to be a particularly challenging year for many, with more people needing the help the food bank provides.

If you want to know anything please do not hesitate to ask.

Barbara Lloyd

Table Top Sales - 3rd September and 1st October

In the Church Hall

If you would like more information or to book a table, at a cost of £5 for Church funds, please contact Lynda at Church or phone 0779 9094472.

Please come along and support us and spread the word to your family and friends.

Christmas Fair?

We are thinking of holding a Christmas Fair in November but will need your help to make this happen.

Please let a steward know if you: –

- Will run or help on a stall
- Have an idea for a stall or activity
- Will help in the kitchen
- Can make an item to sell
- Can donate an item for a tombola

Activities such as this not only raise vital funds for Church and charities but also help us to engage with our local community.

East Leeds History & Archaeology Society

Methodist Church Hall Austhorpe Road Cross Gates

Friday 30th September 2.00pm - Illustrated talk by Dr. Patrick Bourne
“Getting around Town: Transport in Leeds from 1800”

Admission £2.00. All welcome.

WEDNESDAY GROUP – 2.30PM - WESLEY ROOM

The Wednesday Group has continued to have good attendances of approximately 20 each week. On the 6th July we enjoyed a talk by John Best on “Blue Plaques of Leeds” whilst on 13th July, John Blyth entertained us with music by Jim Reeves.

On 20th July we had an enjoyable game of cricket with Alan Tate and a fantastic musical afternoon was enjoyed by around 48 people on 3rd August with Aaran Fleet playing the organ in church.

A good laugh was had during Bill Ineson's Frag Bag show on 10th August whilst Roy Cressey's Interlude in the Caribbean took us to places we dream about on 17th August.

Coming Events:

21st August: Beetle Drive

31st August : No Meeting

September 7th: AGM and Programme Planning

September 14th: End of session meal at the Barnbow

A Prayer for Ukraine

God of justice and peace,
We pray for the people of Ukraine today,
We pray for peace and the laying down of weapons.
We pray for all those who fear tomorrow, that your spirit of comfort would draw near to them.
We pray for those with power over war or peace,
for wisdom, discernment and compassion
to guide their decisions.
Above all, we pray for all your precious children, at risk and in fear,
that you would hold and protect them.
We pray in the name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace.
Amen

Archbishop Justin Welby

Archbishop Stephen Cottrell

Ladies Friendship Group - September-December 2022 Programme

Meetings are at 2.30pm in the Wesley Room on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month.

Date	Speaker/event
13/09/2022	Beetle Drive and Quiz – Carol and Pauline
27/09/2022	Bingo and Board Games – Carol and everyone
11/10/2022	Rev. Helen White – “A tale of two journeys”
25/10/2022	Caroline Carr - “Tales from an inner city primary Headteacher”
08/11/2022	Concordia – sing modern worship songs and hymns
22/11/2022	Christine Holdstock – “Oberammergau Passion Play”
13/12/2022	Christmas carols, readings and songs
20/12/2022	Christmas lunch

The Devotional Class

A few years ago I received a lovely card from the members of the class to thank me for the talks I among many others had given over the years. I would very much like to reciprocate. I really enjoyed those meetings. The warm welcome of the Presidents, Dorothy Walker, Betty Hill and Dorothy Tate; the happy fellowship with the members all of whom were friends anyway and those lovely cups of coffee in immaculate china are still fresh in my memory.

I was particularly touched by the prayers for those in need always by personal name. Though not an actual member I was sorry to hear that the meetings had come to an end as a result of these last 2 or 3 turbulent years.

May the Lord to whom you pray for others protect you all and keep you safe and may another devotional class leap Phoenix like from the ashes.

God bless. Harry Drake.

Leeds South & East Foodbank
helping local people in crisis

THE CONTINUING NEED FOR FOOD BANKS

IN AN EXCLUSIVE ON 24th JULY, **THE MIRROR REPORTED** - *The Trussell Trust Food Bank Charity hands out 13 food parcels a second, as demand soars in the cost of living crisis.* The Charity has voiced its alarm after recording a 50% rise compared with pre-pandemic levels and a 29% increase on last year. In April and May the Trussell Trust gave 42,000 emergency food parcels across the country, with bosses saying *'it is extremely unusual to be so busy at this time of year'*.

RADIO 4 'MONEY BOX' Surveyed 116 food organisations and figures showed that 69 of these – Just under two thirds – saw a **fall in donations**, and for some this came alongside a decrease in funding.

An article in the **GUARDIAN NEWSPAPER** states *'Food Banks across Britain are suffering from a form of Long Covid. During the Pandemic better off families switched to on-line grocery shopping and worked from home – habits that have stuck with a lot of people. That means fewer donations from office fund raisers and fewer items left in 'food bank' stands in Supermarkets, affecting two key forms of donating.'*

OUR CHURCH. In June and July we delivered a total of 23 baskets of food/toiletries weighing 309Kg, plus a £20 donation, to the Leeds South and East '**Trussell Trust**' distribution Centre near Elland Road.

If you are able to donate food/toiletries there are collection baskets either in the Church Galilee or in the Tranquility Court Lounge - or alternatively contact John Best email jvbest39@hotmail.com who will gladly collect.

Spotlight On.....

Please consider writing a few words about your life for inclusion in a future Newsletter, as have many of our Church family already. Please send your contribution to Tracy Dick (contact details on the back page).

Charitable Donations

Thanks to the continuing generosity of the Church family, I have been able to send donations to the various organisations we support.

St Gemma's Hospice (£120) – on behalf of the patients, volunteers and staff I would like to say a huge thank you for your recent donation. Last year we were able to help more than 3,000 families and, with your invaluable support, we can continue to provide vital care for local people who need us most.

Christian Aid (£150) – With your support we are working to create a world where everyone can live a full life, free from poverty. Your gift is helping this work to continue – thank you. Christian Aid believes the current economic system exacerbates inequality, and on top of this shock and disasters hit the poorest communities hardest. As a result of your love and support we are able to develop approaches that empower marginalised producers to make their livelihoods more resilient and make the markets they operate within more inclusive.

Action for Children (£105) – thank you for your recent donation. 2021 has been another difficult year, with many challenges for all of us. Despite this, your support has enabled us to help 604,885 children, young people and families last year. That's more people than we have ever helped before. We simply wouldn't have been able to do this without people like you.

....with grateful thanks, Alison Lambert, Treasurer.

History Corner

1920 - In spite of difficult times and an economic depression these were years of growth and change. In 1920 Cross Gates Picture House was opened at the bottom of Station Road and for home entertainment 1921 saw the birth of the BBC and official broadcasting.

In the Cross Gates Wesleyan Methodist Church the heating system was improved and modernised in 1920-21: a large new boiler was installed at a cost of £280 to heat both church and school buildings. Nor were current social issues neglected. In December 1920 it was decided that a petition in favour of the League of Nations be placed in the vestibule of the chapel for signature.

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

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 Barbara 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.

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.

Websites:

Circuit: www.leedsnandemethodist.org.uk

District: www.yorkshirewestmethodist.org.uk

Your Financial Contributions: Thank you to all those who have continued to contribute to the Church's running costs. If you do not attend Church, please continue sending them to Linda Booth or to 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 on email amandajbrow@gmail.com

Newsletter: Please email contributions for the Newsletter to Tracy Dick tracylouisedick@gmail.com
Deadlines coming up: Monday 19th September, Monday 17th October.

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