



**CROSSGATES**

**METHODIST CHURCH**  
**Newsletter**

**May 2023**

MINISTER: Rev Helen White

**Continuity and Change**

I've got wind on my mind. That is partly because I was thinking about what I was going to write whilst out walking the dog just now - and it is very windy. As you are reading this at the end of April/beginning of May, just think back to what the weather was like during Easter week... This morning I saw footage of a lorry being blown over on the M62, and planes struggling to land at Heathrow.

But wind is also on my mind in relation to May. What a month we have ahead of us. For a start, three of the Mondays are Bank Holidays - so no Tots and Guests or Coffee Morning in three of the weeks. A nice break for the volunteers, but probably a bit of a gap for some of those who come along. The month is topped and tailed with celebrations. The first weekend has the King's Coronation - for many of us the first coronation we'll witness, and for even more of us, the first in our adult lives. I wonder what memories will be made. The stories I've heard from the Queen's Coronation in 1953 are of lots of people gathering round very small televisions in those houses that were fortunate enough to have one. This time, very few people won't have access to a television, computer, tablet, or some other means of viewing if they want to. Just think what winds of change have blown through our world in the last 70 years. I wonder what those winds of change will bring in the next few years. Yet alongside that, in the Coronation service we will witness centuries of tradition. Think of the symbols of orb and sceptre; the anointing which links to the anointing of Biblical kings; Edward the Confessor's chair. Winds of change, and yet some things stay the same.

There is continuity to be seen in great ceremonies like the Coronation, as there was in the late Queen's state funeral.

And at the end of the month, the church celebrates Pentecost. Just think of the winds of change that blew in Jerusalem on that day. Winds that changed Peter, the 'foot-in-mouth' fisherman, into an articulate preacher. Winds that changed shy, fearful disciples into apostles who shared all that they had learnt of Jesus. But even that day continued what had been known in the past. The prophet Joel wrote: 'I will pour out my spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions.' (Joel 2:28) Elsewhere in the Old Testament fire and wind have been signs of God at work. So too at Pentecost.

Whatever May brings for you, whatever winds of change are blowing in your lives, I pray that you will know the continuity of God's presence with you. **Helen**

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### **May Services**

7 May – 10.30am		Mr Fidelis Chinyama
14 May – 10.30am	Christian Aid Week	Mr Ted Britton
14 May – 4.00pm Easter Offering	Circuit Service <i>(at Scholes &amp; on YouTube)</i>	Circuit Staff
18 May – 7.30pm	Ascension Day <i>(at Oakwood)</i>	Revd Canon Kathryn Fitzsimons
21 May – 10.30pm		Mrs Hazel Featherstone
28 May – 10.30am	Pentecost	Mr Steven Jones

*Communion Stewards for June are Carol Smith & Georgina Cressey*

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### **Church Flowers**

Flowers in church for Easter were a joint effort by Barbara Leeming and Georgina Cressey. Barbara did the lovely display at the front of the Church and Georgina did the ones in the entrance donated by Dorothy Weston in remembrance of her husband and son.

A further donation was received from Pauline Brown which will be used in between requests.

Barbara and Georgina thank everyone for the kind comments and all those who have helped with donations.

### **Church AGM**

The Church's AGM will take place after the Sunday morning service on **30<sup>th</sup> April 2023**. All are welcome to attend.

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### **Table Top Sale – 3rd June 9.30am to 12noon**

Why not come along for a drink and a chat and then browse round all the items for sale. You might find just the item you have been looking for, including books, bric-a-brac, clothes, jigsaws and handcrafted greetings cards from only 50p.

*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 0779 9094472.*

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### **CHURCHES TOGETHER Annual Meeting**

All are invited to the Churches Together in Leeds 15 Annual General Meeting at 7.30pm on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> May at St John Henry Newman Centre. Refreshments will be served from 7pm. The guest speaker is Dr Paul Coleman, the lead for Leeds Church Institute, Faith in the Margins.

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

Friday **26<sup>th</sup> May** 2.00pm – Mr Josh Flint will present an illustrated talk “Yorkshire Battles” – Battles from the 7<sup>th</sup> to the 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.

Talks take place in the Methodist Church Hall, Cross Gates and all are welcome. **Admission £2.00 (including refreshments)**

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### **With Thanks**

Jean and her family wish to thank Helen and the Church Family for their prayers, condolences, cards and visits following Harry's passing. We appreciate the attendance and assistance at the service on 21<sup>st</sup> March. The retiring collection for the Salvation Army and Water Aid reached £395 in his memory. **Jean Drake**

Thanks to all the congregation please for their prayers over the last few months, while I have been recuperating from my pneumonia and pulmonary embolism. Also a big thank you to Barbara Lloyd for her kindness in our need of help. Many thanks. **Linda Calvert**

### **Monday Coffee Morning**

Please come and join us between 10:00am and 11:30am if you would like someone to talk to while you enjoy a drink.

### **Ladies Friendship Group**

Meetings are at 2.30pm in the Wesley Room on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month. All welcome.

9/05/2023 – programme planning and AGM

23/05/2023 – end of term lunch

### **Men's Fellowship**

Meetings are at 2pm fortnightly in the Wesley Room on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays of the month. All welcome.

### **Wednesday Group**

This takes place weekly at 2.30pm. All welcome.

3/05/2023 – welcome to our first session with cream scones and a quiz.

10/15/2023 – Roy Cressey presents Caribbean Interlude part 3.

17/05/2023 – Christine Holdstock tells of her trip to Oberammergau.

24/05/2023 – Trevor Bleasby shares 'Confessions of a Community Policeman'

31/15/2023 – Alan Tate organises a game of cricket.

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## **Charitable Donations**

**From Wendy Bentley District Administrator/PA on behalf of Revd Kerry Tankard:** Please accept our thanks for the recent generous donation from Cross Gates to the District Benevolent Fund. In recent months the fund has been used to support a number of ministers and lay people across the District. These donations are always gratefully received and we appreciate your support.

**From Chris Fields of St George's Crypt:** Than you all so very much for your kind donation. It is very much appreciated by everyone here at the Crypt.

**From DEC Turkey-Syria Earthquake Appeal:** thanks to your generosity DEC charities and their local partners are responding, working with locally led relief efforts in Turkey and Syria. Your support is helping provide emergency aid such as shelter, food, clean water and medical care.

***Alison Lambert, Church Treasurer***

### **Leeds South & East Foodbank**

In March our Church delivered 186KG of food to the Leeds South and East distribution centre.

*'Leeds South and East Food Bank is part of the Trussell Trust Foodbank Network. We are one of over 400 Foodbanks providing emergency food to people in crisis nationwide. We give food to people in a state of crisis in the Leeds South East area of the City. People access one of the Foodbank outlets via a referral form from a statutory or voluntary organisation such as Doctors, Health Visitors, Citizens Advice Bureau, Welfare Office etc. All food given out by the Foodbank is donated often by Schools, Churches, Businesses, Individuals or through Supermarket collections.'*

**If you want to donate food, there is a box in Church or contact John Best who will gladly collect.**

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### **Second World War Memorial – Harry B Smith & Walter Flowith**

In August, Helen was contacted by a gentleman called Philip Smith who wanted to visit the Church. He told her that his family have a long history with this church. Both his grandfathers (John Smith and Arthur Flowith) were Church Trustees in 1936. His father (Harry Smith) was the scoutmaster and his mother, Mary was the cubmaster. Philip lived at 66 Crossgates Lane from his birth until he was 15 and worshipped at this church, was a cub and a scout under the guidance of the Group Leader (John T Thompson) and he still has his Sunday school books inscribed with his name for good attendance!



This memorial on the Church wall is dedicated to the nine members of the congregation who died during the second world war. It says “To the Glory of God and in honoured memory of the men associated with this church who made the supreme sacrifice in the World War 1939 to 1945”.

Philip is related to two of the men listed on the memorial plaque. Harry Bernard Smith was his father and Walter Flowith was his uncle. I would like to share with you some of the information that Philip has found about his father and uncle.

**Harry Bernard Smith** was born in Leeds on 6 January 1915, and was the only child of John and Annie Smith who worshipped here. The family moved to Cross Gates and Harry joined the 14th North East Leeds Scout Group here. He became the Scout Master in 1939. This is probably where he met his future wife, Mary Flowith, who was the cubmaster here from 1937.



Harry and Mary married at Cross Gates Methodist Church on 11 October 1941. As well as family members, you can see some of the scouts and cubs on this photo.

Harry joined the Royal Airforce Volunteer Reserve. After officer training he joined 103 squadron at Elsham Wolds, near Brigg in May 1942 and subsequently flew Wellington, Halifax and Lancaster bombers on night raids over Europe. Harry was home on leave when his son, Philip was born in October 1942, and he was also home for his son's christening on the 16<sup>th</sup> December 1942. This was Harry's last day of a 6 day leave and he was killed the following night.



On 17 December 1942 Bomber Command planned an operation to lay mines in the sea of Nyborg Harbour in East Denmark. The bomber was shot down over Denmark and the mine load in the Lancaster exploded. The "Smith-crew" didn't have a chance, they were all killed. They were all buried in Aabenra Cemetery in Denmark.

## **Walter Flowith**



This picture, taken in 1942, is of Walter Flowith with his brother-in-law, Harry Smith. Walter was born in 1923, his parents were Arthur and Mary Flowith who lived at 18 Austhorpe Road. Walter was a member of the Young People's group of Cross Gates Methodist Church.



Walter was a clerk before joining the navy in 1942 aged 18. In 1944 Able Seaman Walter Flowith was a wireless operator on HMS Janus in the Mediterranean near Italy. On 23 January 1944 HMS Janus was struck by a torpedo and sank off the Anzio beachhead. Of her crew only 80 survived, Walter Flowith did not survive. Walter Flowith was only 20 when he died and he is commemorated on the Portsmouth Naval Memorial

*I would like to thank Philip Smith for enabling me to share the stories of these two young men with you.*

**Christine Holdstock**

**Condolences:** Our thoughts and prayers are with the family and friends of Vera Johnson who died recently.

**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 & VicePresident: 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 or to the Church's address.

**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 (see below for contact details)

**Newsletter:** Please email contributions for the Newsletter to Tracy Dick [tracylouisedick@gmail.com](mailto:tracylouisedick@gmail.com)

Deadlines coming up: **14<sup>th</sup> May, 18<sup>th</sup> June.** If you would like to receive the Newsletter by email please send Tracy an email.

**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*