



**CROSSGATES
METHODIST
CHURCH
Newsletter**

July & August 2023

MINISTER: Rev Helen White (until the end of July)

MINISTER: Rev Becki Stennett (from 1st September)

God be with you - Good-bye

I'm writing this the day after the last Circuit Meeting I will be part of in Leeds North and East. I'm well into that season of 'lasts'. It's not a period I enjoy, and part of me just wants to be the other side of it all, settled into the house in Leicester with Paula and knowing the names of the people I'll be working with there. In the meantime, there is a lot of sorting out to be done, and getting rid of stuff. We have to fit two manse's worth of furniture, two ministers' worth of books, and all the other paraphernalia we have acquired over 30 years (Paula) and 25 years (me) of ministry into one manse. But alongside the physical sorting out is the sorting through of memories and reflecting on the last five years. I can confidently say they have not been what I expected, even though I'm not quite sure what I was expecting. A pandemic was definitely not on my radar. In some ways my memory of this circuit will be coloured by the lockdowns and all the new things we learnt through that. This includes learning to Zoom, risk assess the unknown amid ever changing advice, and judge 2 metres at a glance... I've also been reminded how much we value being present in the same space as other people. Whilst Zoom is a useful tool, it doesn't replace being in the same room. I hope we've also discovered or been reminded that, together with God, we can face things we never imagined and come out the other side.

Society continues to change - and we could argue about whether the changes are good or bad (probably a bit of both). The Church has to change too. Some of those changes will seem good and some bad - and we may well disagree about which is which. I'll be facing those changes in

Leicester for the next 12 months - then somewhere else after that. You'll be facing them here in Leeds.

There have been personal changes for me too - I arrived as a single woman, and I leave with a fiancée to move in with, and a wedding to look forward to. Whatever the next few months and years bring, I pray that you will continue journeying with God. So I leave you with a poem I wrote some time ago.

God calls us to change and move
On into the future that is yet unknown.
Only in time will we see where God's been leading.
Depend on God – and marvel at the journey.

Birth to death – life brings hellos and goodbyes.
Yesterday is past – tomorrow still awaits us.
Each of us travelling with the great I AM.

Helen

July & August Services

2 July		Mr Michael Prince
9 July	Holy Communion	Revd Helen White
16 July		Revd Paula Hunt
23 July		Mr John Summerwill
23 July	Circuit Service	Farewell for Revd Helen White & Deacon Leisl Warren
30 July		Dr Stanley Pearson
6 Aug		Mr Grenville Jensen
13 Aug	Holy Communion	Dr Madeleine Andrews
20 Aug		Miss Mary Patchett
27 Aug		Mr Steven Jones

Communion Stewards for July are Denise Durkin and Keith Westbrook and in August they are John Blyth and Roy Cressey.

Monday Coffee Morning

Please come and join us each Monday in the Church Hall between 10am and 11.30am if you would like someone to chat with while enjoying a drink.

Church Flowers

Silk flowers were used for the fresh flowers on 11th and 18th June.

Flowers for 25th June were donated by **Jennie Reeves** in memory of her sister and brother's birthdays.

We thank **Hazel Watson** for her kind donation which will be used in the future.

Donations are greatly appreciated whether for someone or something special or as a gift to help swell the funds. As a guide to fill the large stand at the front of the church the cost is around £15 to £20 depending on what flowers are available at the time. However smaller donations help with the cost if someone cannot afford the full amount.

Barbara and Georgina thank you for your support to keep fresh flowers in Church.

Wednesday Group – 2.30pm Wesley Room

Please see below for the full programme, however of special note is the 5th July meeting when Aaran Fleet will lead a musical afternoon. Entrance will still be £1 (which includes tea and biscuit afterwards). Aaran is leaving Temple Moor this year to go on to college and to university to follow his musical career. All are welcome to come along and enjoy the music.

5 July	A Variety of Music in the Afternoon with Arran Fleet
12 July	Beetle Drive
19 July	Bring your favourite poem to a Poetry Afternoon with Brenda
26 July	Annie Cochrane brings Tales from Behind the Scenes at Elland Road
2 August	On holiday with Christine to the Italian Mountains and Sea
9 August	Barbara Lloyd shares about her time in Midwifery
16 August	A Caribbean Interlude Part 4 with Roy Cressey
23 August	Board Games
30 August	Bank Holiday – no meeting
6 Sept	Annual General Meeting
13 Sept	End of Session – lunchtime meal

All welcome

Table Top Sales – 1st July & 5th August

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

*Please come along and support Church fundraising
and maybe pick up a bargain!*

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

In May we delivered to the Leeds South and East Food Bank centre 11 baskets of food and toiletries weighing 135Kg.

We have all probably noticed that food prices seem to be continually rising. This makes it difficult for some families to afford even basic items, forcing them to use food banks. The South and East Leeds (Trussell Trust) Food Bank supplies 9 local distribution points.

As well as gifts of food, several Church Members, contribute money with which we buy items on their behalf, after first checking what the Banks require. All money, plus how it is spent, is recorded. Thus, the price of basic items at today's price can be compared with earlier costs.

Listed below are basic items bought which can be compared with the price (in brackets) paid 18 months ago:-

Coffee (£1.45) £1.85. Corned Beef (1.19) £2.05. Carton Orange (£0.55) £0.65. Tin of Potatoes (£0.33) £0.39. Custard tin (0.39) £0.70. Porridge (£0.70) £0.84. Penne Pasta (£0.32) £0.41. Chopped Tomatoes (£0.28) £0.35. All prices are from two main Supermarkets.

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

Community Fridge and Pantry for LS14/LS15

This can be found at St James' Manston Church Hall. Unlike a food bank the Community Fridge is open to all. You can choose 12 items for £3.50. The food is sourced from surplus so it is a simple solution to wasting less through the sharing of good quality food. The Community Fridge is open Thursday 2pm – 4pm and Friday 8.30 to 10.30am.

For more information contact the Food Project Manager:

Andy@connectingcrossgates.com

Request for Help

There are a few rotas we would like to get set up in order to make Church run more smoothly and be more welcoming to all. Can you help?

2 Door steward and 1 welcomer: Cynthia is happy to continue as the welcomer in the outside doorway. Welcoming would involve welcoming everyone as they come in, giving out notice sheets etc if required.

Door Steward: explain to new people that the service will be on the screen and ask them if they will be able to see it. If not, advise them which book(s) they need to take in with them. Open and close the door for people entering Church so that people already in Church who want to be quiet, don't hear the chatter in the Galilee.

After Church coffee on the first Sunday of the month. (This could be more often if we could get the volunteers.) It involves setting up for coffee before the service, serving the coffee, clearing away afterwards.

Repair Café (third Saturday of each month in the Church Hall)

To be a 'host'. Open up at 10am, set up kitchen for coffee then serve refreshments throughout the session. This could be 11 – 1pm or 1 pm to 3pm. Helping with the clearing up afterwards.

If you are able to help with any of the above, please let one of the Stewards know. Thank you, Barbara Lloyd

A 'smelly' memory from Pauline Brown

I was christened in November 1947 in Devonport, Plymouth, at St. Aubyns C.O.E. Church. The area was still quite a bombsite and remember as a tot the piles of bricks etc around. At about three years old I was allowed to go to the friend's or relative house under the watchful eye of another aunt but unfortunately somehow managed to fall in a whatever you like to call it, a disgusting pile of foul stuff from a damaged sewer! To this day I can remember being carried at arm's length between my mum and her sister, auntie Frances, through to the back yard and straight into the tin bath! Whether this has had any bearing on the fact I have a quite acute smell sense! Not long after my mum and dad got the keys to a brand new council house on an estate called Ernesettle. We were one of the first to move in, a great difference to the heavily bombed Devonport. It was lovely.

Hope this gives a bit of light relief and not too smelly a memory!

Having shared details of Philip Smith's family in the previous newsletters, here is his own story – Christine Holdstock.

Memoirs of Philip Michael Smith

I was born on the 14th October 1942 at 35 Easterly Road - this former house was used as a maternity home during the 2nd World War. My parents were Harry Bernard Smith and Mary Smith (formerly Flowith). My grandfather Arthur Flowith moved to 18 Austhorpe Road, Cross Gates in 1913, when he married Mary Elizabeth Dowie. This rented property was just across the road from the Methodist Church and he lived there for 23 years, had six children between 1914 & 1929, before moving to his own property, 66 Cross Gates Lane in 1934. My grandmother Mary Elizabeth Dowie was a Fever Nurse at the Tropical Disease Hospital at Seacroft in 1911. She was a Wesleyan Methodist and it is likely she met her husband through this mutual connection.

My family were immersed in Cross Gates Methodist Church as both grandfathers were appointed Trustees in May 1936. My father Harry B Smith was Scout Master and my mother Mary Flowith was Cub Master. My grandmother Mary Elizabeth Flowith was a leading light in their 'Women's Bright Hour' and the church has two plaques recording three family members (my father and two uncles) who lost their lives between 1934 and 1944. Both grandfathers were born in 1880, and were fortunate to miss the first world war and were special police constables in the second.



I lived with my mother and my Flowith grandparents at 66 Crossgates Lane. This photograph was taken in the front garden with me in my Oakwood Preparatory School Uniform alongside Arthur Flowith. He had a strong personality and made all the decisions regarding the everyday routine under his roof. His Wesleyan Methodist upbringing decreed that Sundays were special and to be observed by attendance at Church and the only book to be read was the bible. At this age I had no concept that this restriction was severe and just complied.

Sundays for me were determined by morning attendance at Sunday School in the annexe and when that finished, I went round to the front of the Church and joined Arthur Flowith for the main service in the family pew by the main door. We walked home for lunch and then I returned for afternoon Sunday school and sometimes the evening service. The Sunday School gave out annual book prizes for full attendances and I achieved a full set, though their choice of reading material was limited to religious offerings such as "The Pilgrim's Progress" which I received in 1952. I also have the last book I received in 1954 which was "The Methodist Hymn Book" and my mother received her copy in 1934. My grandfather John Smith received a copy of "Tennyson's Poetical Works" for "regular attendance". All these books are in my Family Tree archive. I also remember performing as a bear in a pantomime in the church annex.

Scouting played a big part in my father's life and his involvement is mentioned in several letters from the late 1930's. The 14th North East Leeds (Cross Gates) Scout Group was formed in 1927 followed by the cub section in 1928. The chief instigator was John T Thompson (JT) who lived in the area between 1925 and 1962 and served as Group Scout Leader for most of that time. He was presented with the highest possible Scout Leaders award of a Silver Wolf by Lord Rowallan in 1959 having completed 40 years of service.

My father would have been just the right age to have been a scout when they were first established in Cross Gates although he was already a member of another troop and transferred to the 14th when his parents relocated. There are many references to the influence that JT (that was the common abbreviation of his name that was still in use when I knew him) had over the young members of the church.

My father passed through the various scout stages until becoming an assistant scout master in 1934 and became the warranted scout master in June 1939. It is interesting to note that my mother became a warranted cubmaster in May 1937 so she would have known her future husband for at least 5 years before they married in Cross Gates Church.

I was a member of the cubs and then the Scouts. I remember meeting JT at his house on Hollyshaw Lane - his house walls were covered in South African memorabilia, spears, clubs and shields. I moved from Cross Gates when I was 15 but I remained in Scouting most of my life.

Philip Smith

Congratulations and Best Wishes to Amy and Emma Tobin who celebrated their 21st Birthday on 7th June.

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.

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, the Church's address. Or email amandajbrow@gmail.com

Back Copies of this Newsletter: Just a reminder that copies of this Newsletter from Jan 2020 are displayed on the Cross Gates pages of the Leeds North & East Methodist Circuit Website, www.leedsnandemethodist.org.uk. On the website home page click on the Churches tab, this will display all the Churches in the Circuit, then click on the Cross Gates tab. Happy reading!

Newsletter: Please email contributions for the Newsletter to Tracy Dick tracylouisedick@gmail.com
Deadlines coming up: Monday 22nd August, Monday 19th September.

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