



CROSSGATES METHODIST CHURCH October 2023 Newsletter

MINISTER: Rev Becki Stennett

Spin me a Yarn...

We don't know each other very well yet, or perhaps at all, but I thought I'd start my first newsletter contribution by saying that I'm very much looking forward to meeting you, and I'm thrilled to now be Minister in Colton and Cross Gates as well as continuing in Garforth and Scholes.

I hope you won't mind that I'll take this opportunity to muse a little around some of the things I love, and perhaps draw out some thoughts about church life and following God. Perhaps I should reassure you that the title is only a hint at my hobbies, and I don't intend to be untruthful...!

On the fourth Saturday of September each year, you'll find me along with hundreds (maybe thousands!) of others at Skipton Auction Mart for 'Yarndale' festival. It does what it says on the tin really – a festival for all things yarn-y! I like to knit and crochet, and stitch a bit too, and so I go to find beautiful yarns to knit and crochet with, and to find inspiration for upcoming projects!

This year, as I prepared for the event, I started to make a list of particular things I would like to find, which include things like 'kitchener stitch reminder' and 'DPN case?'. To some of you, those will be meaningful phrases, but I suspect to the majority of readers, that will seem like nonsense!

The truth is, that those of us who share common interests and hobbies are likely to share some sort of mysterious language or other that seems like nonsense to others – I speak bringing to mind the glazed over look on my husband's face when he hears me once again explaining the difference between crocheting and knitting, and bringing to mind also the

way I've been trying to get to grips with the terminology of cricket as my children start to enjoy the sport!

For those of us 'in the know', the secret, mysterious language will be well understood, but it may alienate those who are not interested in the hobby. I don't really need people to know that kitchener stitch makes a lovely ending to the toe of a sock, but I hope they might appreciate the love with which it was made for them, and the comfort of a super soft home knit sock!

More and more I suspect that church-going, following Jesus, and the words I and others who try to live lives of faith use are like some mysterious language. Really, I don't need people to try to understand why some of us gather on a Sunday morning, or study the Bible, or pray. But I do hope that the signs of my journeying with God are enough to help others to see the outrageous and amazing love of God.

Perhaps all we ever need to do is make time to share our stories and listen to those of others, rather than trying to explain 'who God is' in complicated ways and words.

The bible is quite straightforward on this really: God is love, and those who live in love live in God, and God lives in them. Not too strange and mysterious after all, I hope! **Becki**

October Services

1st October		Dr Paul Coleman
8th October		Mr John Clay
15th October		Revd Becki Stennett
22nd October		Mr Ted Britton
29 th October	Holy Communion	Revd Joyce Nicholson

The communion stewards for October are John Best & Neil Smith

A Prayer

Let us be yours, O God. Let us not draw back from you, neither from your presence, nor from your cross. Touch our hearts and make them holy. Consecrate our lives and enlist them in your service. **Amen**

Lucy Herbert (1669 – 1744)

Monday Coffee Morning

Please come and join us each Monday in the Church Hall between 10am and 11.30am. Coffee, snacks and a listening ear on offer.

Table Top Sales – 7th October & 4th November

Why not join us for a breakfast bap and then a stroll round the sale to pick up a bargain.

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.

Come along and pick up a bargain!

Ladies Friendship Group

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

Date	Speaker/event
10/10/2023	Quiz with Pauline
24/10/2023	To the beautiful lakes of Croatia with Christine

Men's Fellowship

Our Group meets in the Wesley Room at 2.30pm on the first and third Tuesday afternoons of each month between October and March inclusive. We have a varied programme with contributions from some of our own members as well as outside speakers when available. Our meetings begin and end with some short devotions and we have tea/coffee and biscuits before going home. We also have one or two meals out at a local hostelry or restaurant when wives or partners are welcome to join us. We are always looking for new members, so if you like the thought of having fun, good conversations and companionship, please come along and give us a try with no obligation. If you would like more information, please speak to one of the following committee members - Michael Teal, Alan Tate or John Blyth - on any Sunday morning at Church.

Church Flowers

Flowers on 27th August were donated by **Joan Akeroyd** in memory of her husband. On 10th September **Michael Teal** donated flowers in memory of **Rosemary** and on the 17th September **Dorothy Walker** donated flowers in memory of **Elaine**.

Georgina and Barbara thank you all for your donations we have managed to be able to keep fresh flowers in Church most Sundays.

If you wish to donate towards flowers, please contact Georgina or Barbara. Thanks once again.

A Message from our Senior Steward

As some of you will know, I have been asking in the Church notices each week if anyone has anything to go in our Church archive. This came about when Rev Helen cleared out Seacroft and brought some of their items to Cross Gates to go in the Leeds Archive. As I've been clearing out to move house I have found a lot of minutes, files, items etc that I do not need to keep at home any more. I wondered if any of you have items you want to ensure get kept for future generations to be able to see. In addition, we have a chest in the Stewards room in the cellar which needs to be cleared out and this chest has been used as our 'Archive,' now is the chance to get this saved securely for the future.

Many of you know Michael Teal and his son are interested in the Archive, my plan was to collect items put them on show in the Wesley room perhaps at the after Church coffee and at the men's and ladies groups and then Michael and I will take them to the Archive. Hopefully at the beginning of October.

If you have anything at all you want to put in the archive, please bring it to Church and give to me or I will collect it if needed.

Thank you, **Barbara Lloyd**

Pam Wilcox's Pedal Power

Pam Wilcox is going to undertake a sponsored bike ride in memory of the late Ann Oates. Pam and Ann served for many years together on the local NSPCC Committee. All proceeds will be donated to the NSPCC. Please support Pam and sponsor her.

Leeds South & East Foodbank

Food donated for the Harvest Festival will be donated to the foodbank as part of your ongoing and very generous support. Items can be brought each Sunday but as always collection can be arranged via John Best.

If you are able to donate, please contact John or email jvbest39@hotmail.com who will gladly collect from you.

A Prayer

During this season of Harvest, we pray for all those in our country and in our local community who are facing hunger at this time.

We thank you for the work of the foodbank network.

May you bless and sustain all those who respond in acts of loving service to the needs of their local communities.

We know Lord that you are a God of justice.

May your spirit guide us then, to have a voice to call for, and the strength to take action for a country without the need for foodbanks.

We ask this in the name of Jesus, your Son. ***Amen***

Connexional Funds

There are several funds held at connexional level. Here we have highlighted three:

The Methodist Church Fund is the general fund of the Church and receives donations and legacies that are used in a variety of ways to support the Church in responding to Our Calling.

The Mission in Britain Fund exists to support work in the furtherance of the Church's mission. It does this principally by helping to fund God For All, the Church's Evangelism and Growth strategy and in particular the new places for new people work and the development and embedding of a Methodist way of Life; helping all of us live out Our Calling. In addition, the fund supports expenditure on Methodist Action on Poverty and Justice; Heritage; Justice, Dignity & Solidarity, and the Church's commitment to achieving net zero carbon by 2030.

The World Mission Fund promotes and encourages Methodist mission overseas. It does this through developing relationships of mutual help and enrichment with partner churches in other countries. It supports education and advocacy work and helps local Methodist partners respond to emergency situations in contextually appropriate ways. It also helps us to learn from our partners by providing opportunities like twinning and visits.

UNICEF – for every child

We have received grateful thanks from UNICEF: ‘thank you so much for raising £168.39 to support UNICEF’s vital work with children. Your kind Jars of Grace will help protect children in emergencies, providing immediate life-saving supplies and lasting support to help families rebuild their lives. Thanks to the commitment of all our dedicated supporters, UNICEF ensures more of the world’s children are vaccinated, educated and protected than any other organisation. We have done more to influence laws and policies to help protect children than anyone else. In 190 countries and territories we are working to save children’s lives, to defend their rights and to help them fulfil their potential, from early childhood through adolescence. Thank you, once again, for your incredible support and for helping us to give children around the world the opportunity to survive and thrive.’

Alison Lambert, Church Treasurer

Spotlight on..... Dorothy Weston

As promised in July 2022, Dorothy has continued her story.....

Since writing the last article I’ve moved on 20 years, now married with two teenage children, and feeling I really ought to find a job to help with the family finances. I didn’t want to go back to banking but needed to do something entirely different. In those days the place to look for work was Friday’s Yorkshire Evening Post. One advert caught my eye – it said ‘are you interested in history?’ I thought ‘in for a penny, in for a pound’ so I applied, got an interview and got the job.

It was to work as a guide in the state rooms at Harewood House. We had to familiarise ourselves with the history of the house so that we could answer any questions the public might put to us. I really enjoyed the job and we had some good times. I did it for a year or two and later the Head Gardener, knowing I loved gardening and plants asked me if I would like to manage a plant centre they were about to open. I jumped at the chance – and it turned out to be the best job I ever had. The Head Gardener at the time was Alan Mason who had a gardening programme on YTV once a week. So I did that job for some time before retiring.

WESLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY (YORKSHIRE)

at CROSSGATES METHODIST CHURCH

On Saturday, 28 October at 2.45pm, The Rev.Dr. Tim S. Macquiban will speak on: **'A Grain of Mustard Seed: the role of the Strangers Friend Societies in Methodism's engagement with the poor in the nineteenth century.** *All are welcome to attend.*

East Leeds History & Archaeology Society

Methodist Church Hall Austhorpe Road Cross Gates
Friday 27th October 2.00pm - Illustrated talk by Ms Lesley Newnham
'Boston Spa – from Hamlet to Georgian Spa'
Admission £2.00. All welcome

Christmas Fair – Saturday 25th November **10am to 2pm**

We would be very grateful for donations of cakes, toys, Christmas items, craft or tombola prizes. We also need general help on the day. If you can help in any way please contact Graeme Bentley, gpbentley@outlook.com
Refreshments, including breakfast baps and turkey sandwiches, will be available so why not come along and treat yourself after choosing some Christmas presents from our stalls.

The proceeds will be shared between Church and charities.

Christmas Greetings

Why not send Christmas greetings to the Church family via this newsletter and support Action for Children at the same time. You will reach everyone and save money on cards and postage. In return for a small donation your messages will be printed in the December edition of the newsletter. There will just be one December newsletter this year. The deadline for messages is **Sunday 19th November** and can be sent to Tracy via any of the methods below. Donations should be brought to a Church service, sent to Linda Booth (clearly separated from your collection), or posted to Church.

Tracy Dick tracylouisedick@gmail.com

Service Options: If there are any people or situations you would like included in the prayers in worship, please let Becki 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 email amandajbrow@gmail.com

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 below).

Newsletter: Please email contributions for the Newsletter to Tracy Dick tracylouisedick@gmail.com

Deadlines coming up: Monday 16th October, Sunday 19th November (for December and January editions), Sunday 21st January 2024.

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