



**CROSSGATES
METHODIST
CHURCH**

Newsletter

July & August 2024

MINISTER: Rev Becki Stennett

No Politics from the Pulpit...?

It's election season as I write this, and I'm sure I'm not the only person keeping an eye on the different policies, campaigns and voter intention information both here in the UK and in the USA on their much longer track towards election.

As a Methodist Minister, I maintain that it's not good form at all to declare party affiliations as I preach or pastor, but I must confess I chuckle any time someone says 'there should be no politics from the pulpit'! At its heart, Christianity is deeply political, and rightly so! Not party political: there's no Methodist Church line on which party or candidates people should vote for. But deeply political nonetheless, as we are concerned with seeing the world change for the better, in every way possible.

Election season is a time when we're all (I hope) thinking more acutely about the way our government spends money on different things, giving attention to different groups of people. At all times, I hope Christians are thinking about how time, attention and money can be focussed on the people that need it most.

Oscar Romero, a priest and later Archbishop in San Salvador, who was assassinated for his outspoken politics in favour of the poor, was canonised as a Saint in the Roman Catholic church in 2018. He's well known for standing firm to the teaching of 'preferential option for the poor', which is a part of Catholic social teaching and also a key emphasis in Methodism.

In this teaching, we understand that the Bible explicitly shows that there is preference given to the well being of the poor and the powerless.

It's with that in mind that I chose to read the manifestos and policies for the parties and candidates hoping for my vote at the election. I read them, wondering what differences the different ideas and ideologies will make to those who are poorest and most vulnerable in society, and indeed around the world.

In the Bible, Jesus reminds us often of our need to shift perspective, to see first from the point of view of someone less fortunate than ourselves, less well represented, less well able to speak up. I think if we all did this, the world could look quite different indeed. I encourage us in these months ahead (both pre and post election) to see where there needs to be change for those who are the least and lost in our community are not just looked after, but understand as equals, precious in God's sight and in the eyes of our government too. Whatever the outcomes, may we always be deeply political voices, prophetic voices, which speak of the possibility of a different kind of world. **Rev Becki**

July & August Services

7 July		Mrs Janice Green
7 July	4pm at Lidgett Park	Circuit Service
14 July		Revd Becki Stennett
21 July	Holy Communion	Revd S Jones
28 July	Holy Communion At Garforth	Revd Steven Jones & Revd Becki Stennett
4 Aug		Revd Becki Stennett
11 Aug	Holy Communion	Revd Steven Jones
18 Aug	Holy Communion	Revd Joyce Nicholson
25 Aug		Prof Peter D. Howdle

Communion Stewards for July are John Blyth & Neil Smith and in August they are Cynthia Best & Georgina Cressey.

A Message from Cynthia Best

I would like to say an enormous 'Thank you' to Margaret Saysell for volunteering to take over as Pastoral Secretary.

I would also like to thank all the people who, over the years, have cared for our members and adherents as their pastoral contact or visitor. Your caring has been very much appreciated by many people.

May God bless you all. *Cynthia*

From our Senior Steward, Barbara Lloyd

On the 30th June, at Cross Gates Church, we are hoping to live stream the church service from the Methodist Conference, this year being held at the Royal Armouries in Leeds. Come to Church as usual, but it will be this streamed service and we will be joined by our friends from Garforth and Colton.

28th July at 10.30 am is the Sunday Service when we have been invited to share worship at Garforth Methodist Church instead of at Cross Gates. We have managed to borrow the minibus from Good Neighbours and Cedric is going to drive it from our Church to Garforth and back. We do have to pay for the hire of the minibus so Cedric has worked out we need to charge £3 per person for the return journey. If you would like to attend this service, please let one of the Stewards know and we will book you on. Seats are limited to 15 so do let us know as soon as possible. The alternatives are getting a bus or the train (as Rev. Becki does when she comes to Cross Gates) If you are planning to drive to Garforth Methodist Church you may like to invite a friend to travel with you.

Today I read the following pulpit notice out in Church:

'Dear Friends,

As many of you will be aware, the last few weeks (and indeed months) have seen the beginning of the conversations around the Stationing process.

It is now time to share with you all that I, Rev'd Becki (and Rev'd Mark) Stennett, will be entering the Stationing Process, and will therefore be moving to a new appointment for September 2025.

This decision is not reached easily or lightly, and comes with both hopeful expectation and sadness too.

It has been a great privilege to serve in the Leeds North and East Circuit for my first appointment, and it will not be easy to leave the Circuit, or the churches I've been blessed to be called to over the last 6 years. We trust that God has a place in mind for the Stennett family, and value your prayers for the weeks and months to come.

In the meantime, please be assured of my ongoing prayers and commitment to you all and to serving you while I am here, by the grace of God'. **Rev Becki**

Church Flowers

Flowers on 2nd June were donated by **Michael Teal** in memory of his beloved son **Richard**.

On 16th June, flowers were donated for **Roy's mum's** birthday.

Jean Leach donated flowers on 28th June in memory of her **husband**.

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 most Sundays.

Contact: Georgina Cressey or Barbara Leeming.

After Church Coffee

Please do join us for a hot drink and fellowship after each morning service. The rota for July & August is:

7th July – John Best & Neil Smith

14th July – Linda Booth & Neil Smith

21st July – Carol Smith & Margaret Saysell

28th July – Pam Wilcox & Neil Smith

4th Aug – Georgina Cressey & Neil Smith

11th Aug – Carol Smith & June Holliday

18th Aug – Margaret Saysell & Neil Smith

25th Aug – Pam Wilcox & Neil Smith

Gift Day Saturday 10th August, 10 – 12 noon, Church Hall

Everyone is invited to a 'Gift Day' in the Church Hall. Please come along for coffee and cake and hear about our exciting plans to refurbish the Church's large basement in order to provide a permanent home for 'Missional Generation' youth work. In addition, the refurbishment and the subsequent tenants will provide much needed funds to support the running of our Church and future building developments. For further information please see one of the Stewards.

Monday Coffee Morning

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

Table Top Sales – 6th July, 3rd August and 7th September **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 at a good price.

If you would like more information or to book a table, at a cost of £5 for Church funds, please contact John Smith or phone 0779 9094472. Come along and pick up a bargain!

Wednesday Group

This takes place weekly in the Wesley Room at 2.30pm. All welcome.

3 July	An Update on the Hub	Hazel Featherstone
10 July	Walking the Pennine Way	John Best
17 July	Girl Guiding	Anne Thompson
24 July	Deep Sea Trawlers	Bill Ineson
31 July	Ten Pound Poms	Barbara Lloyd
7 Aug	Another Musical Adventure	John Blyth
14 Aug	Cruising in the Norwegian Fjords & Orkney Islands	Christine Holdstock
21 Aug	TBA – either board games or a poetry afternoon	
28 Aug	NO MEETING – bank holiday	

4 Sept	AGM & ideas for 2025 programme	
11 Sept	End of Session Lunch	

East Leeds History & Archaeology Society

These popular talks are now paused during the Summer period. The next meeting will take place:

Friday 27th September 2pm

Dr Patricia Bourne will give an illustrated talk entitled: 'An A to Z of Leeds Facts, Part One.'

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

Summer Update from Connecting Crossgates

East Leeds Gathers

God is uniting people across east Leeds to pray, reflect, seek justice and share resources. As we learn to follow Jesus together, we want to bless the communities around us and make His love known.

Prayer for East Leeds

Informal Zoom Prayer – Wednesday 24th July 7.30pm – 8.30pm

Zoom Meeting ID: 879 4679 1034

Passcode: 461361

Bus Prayer Pilgrimage – Saturday 27th July

From Lincoln Green to Seacroft on the number 49 bus. For more details contact your Churches Together representative or

eastleedsgathers@gmail.com

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, 6 – 7pm and Friday 8.30am - 10.30am.**

For more information contact the Food Project Manager:

Andy@connectingcrossgates.com or 07840 033637

Morethan Community Café – Methodist Church Hall

Fridays 11am – 1pm

A warm welcome for all ages. Homemade cakes and tots area.

Craft & Chat – Methodist Church Hall

1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month, 1pm – 3pm

Bring your own craft project – refreshments and a warm welcome provided.

Music Hour – Methodist Church Hall

Every 2nd Wednesday of the month, 1.15 - 2pm

Weds 10th July, 14th August, 11th September, 9th October.

Bring an instrument, sing along, or just enjoy a cuppa and a biscuit. All ages welcome.

Poole Estate Community Group – Crossgates Community Centre

Tuesdays 6pm – 8pm

A friendly space open to all, chat, knit, drop in, share, connect, craft.

Church Christmas Fair – Date for your Diary **Saturday 30th November**

This year the Christmas Fair will take place on Saturday 30th November from 10am to 2pm. Elizabeth Hartley and Tracy Dick are taking the lead but need lots of help to make it as great a success as it has been in the past. **Please put the 30th November in your diary** and spread the word. Everyone can make a contribution. We need volunteers on the day, help in advance and donations for the stalls. Please start collecting items for a tombola, a raffle, Christmas bits & pieces, books, chocolate of all shapes and sizes for a chocolate tombola or anything we might be able to sell. It would be super if we could also hold a **Christmas Tree Festival** in Church on the same day. This would then attract people into Church. Are you the person who could organize this? Please contact Elizabeth or Tracy for more information.

The Fair raises much needed funds for our Church and is also an important part of our outreach work so please support this initiative.

Leeds South & East Foodbank
helping local people in crisis

In May we delivered to the Leeds South and East Food Bank centre 10 baskets of food and toiletries weighing 135Kg.

We have specifically been asked for UHT milk, fruit juice, tins of meat, fish, potatoes, tomatoes, fruit, rice pudding but the organisers are keen to emphasise that everything helps.

If you would like to contribute food/toiletries there is a basket in the Galilee or please contact John Best, or email jvbest39@hotmail.com who will gladly collect.

Safeguarding at Cross Gates

Our Church, in line with the District and the Circuit, has a clear safeguarding policy in place. All our policies are available for anyone to read. You may have noticed at the entrances to all our buildings there is a yellow noticeboard with safeguarding information on it, and a yellow folder clearly marked 'safeguarding' where you will find all the policies of our Church. If you have any safeguarding concerns, please do not hesitate to get in touch with me or Revd. Becki, or any of the numbers on the yellow noticeboards. Thank you.

Barbara Lloyd Safeguarding Officer for Cross Gates Church.

Easter Offering: Thank you to everyone who donated to World Mission (Methodist Women in Britain) over Easter. The amount raised was 119.05 - including 13.50 Gift Aid. A cheque was presented on our behalf at the Circuit Service on May 6th. *Alison Lambert (Church Treasurer)*

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 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.

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 continue 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. 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 LeedsNorth&EastMethodistCircuitWebsite, 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: **Sunday 25th August** (for September) and **Sunday 22nd September** (for 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