



# CROSS GATES METHODIST CHURCH Newsletter March 2025

MINISTER: Rev George Bailey (until 26/3/25)

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## **March Services**

2 March – 10.30am		Local Arrangements
5 March – 7pm	Ash Wednesday	Revd Norma Davey
9 March – 10.30am		Mr Ted Britton
16 March – 10.30am	Holy Communion	Revd Steven Jones
23 March – 10.30am		Mrs Susan Howdle
30 March – 10.30am	Mothering Sunday	Revd Becki Stennett

Communion Stewards for March are John Blyth and Neil Smith

*Services in the coldest months – January to March - will be taking place in the Wesley Room rather than the Church itself. This is to save money on heating costs whilst ensuring we all stay warm.*

**Church Annual General Meeting:** This will take place on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> April, after morning service. Everyone is most welcome to attend.

## **A Prayer**

God our father  
we stand together  
one family in your love  
and offer our very selves to you.  
In the strength of your love  
help us to live as Jesus lived,  
to be faithful to you to the end of our lives  
for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

## **WORLD DAY OF PRAYER**

## **(A WOMEN LED, GLOBAL, ECUMENICAL MOVEMENT)**

*"I made you wonderful"*

*Kia Orana!*

Our sisters in The Cook Islands welcome us and lead us for the Day of Prayer 2025. This group of 15 islands in the South Pacific Ocean has a rich and colourful Māori heritage and a deep connection to nature. Join with us as we pray together and reflect on the theme 'I made you wonderful'. World Day of Prayer is an international, ecumenical organisation which enables us to hear the thoughts of women from all parts of the world: their hopes, concerns and prayers. The preparation for the day is vast, the service begins with the writing country and theme being chosen a number of years earlier. Once written it goes to the International Committee in New York for translation and dissemination to the National Committee in each participating country. The service is then discussed and edited before being presented nationally, regionally and then locally for branches to make their plans. Finally, at a church near you, on Friday 7 March 2025, people will gather to celebrate the service prepared by the women of The Cook Islands. The Day of Prayer is celebrated in over 120 countries. It begins in Samoa and prayer in native languages travels throughout the world — through Asia, Africa, the Middle East, Europe and the Americas before finishing in American Samoa some 38 hours later.

A worldwide wave of prayer...

Churches Together in East Leeds, World Day of Prayer Service

**2 pm on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> March**

at

**Colton Methodist Church,**

Chapel Yard, Colton, Leeds, LS15 9AQ

The organisers emphasise that,  
though this is an ecumenical international  
prayer movement led by women,  
the services are for ALL.  
**everyone is welcome.**

## **Church Flowers**

After Alison's flowers on 19th January there have been no further requests. Since then, the flower fund has supplied flowers for the Wesley Room. These have lasted well due to the room being cold. The flowers that are in the room at present are those **Mavis Camp's** sister-in-law arranged for Mavis's funeral. However, we have bookings over the next few weeks. These will be arranged after **Keith Tingle's** funeral.

If you have any specific dates, you would like flowers to be arranged, please let me know so that I can put it down in the diary. This will help clashes for the same dates.

Thank you all for supporting the flower fund. Also please note that on occasions vases may be used in place of oasis, especially while we are worshipping in the Wesley Room.

**Contacts are: Georgina Cressey and Barbara Leeming**

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***Dear All at Cross Gates Methodist Church***

On behalf of all of us at Leeds South & East Foodbank, I would like to thank you and all your congregation

for donating food to us over the last quarter, October to December 2024. We are experiencing a time of economic turmoil and many more people and families in the local area are needing our services. We continue to depend on generous donations from churches and others like yourselves who help those in need, thank you so much.

The support that you have provided will ensure that we are able to:

- Continue providing emergency food to the most vulnerable in society, especially during this economic climate, as extra demand is placed on our service.
- Your recent donation of 529kg has enabled us to provide 1260 meals.

***Yours sincerely, Wendy Doyle, Operations Manager***

**If you would like to contribute food/toiletries please contact John Best or email [jvbest39@hotmail.com](mailto:jvbest39@hotmail.com) who will gladly collect.**

## **Table Top Sales – 1<sup>st</sup> March & 5<sup>th</sup> April**

### **9.30am to 12 noon**

Why not come along for a drink and a chat and then browse round all the items for sale. You might just find 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 0779904472. *Come along and pick up a bargain!*

### **Warm Space Tuesdays**

The Church Hall is now open every Tuesday morning (9.30am to 1pm) in January, February and March to provide a warm and welcoming space for all. Hot drinks, snacks and homemade soup are being offered in return for a small donation.

### **Ladies Friendship Group**

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

25/02/25 – A musical afternoon with Concordia

11/03/25 – Charity Auction & Quiz

25/03/25 – Thomas & Courtney – African Travels

### **Men's Fellowship Group**

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

04/03/25 – End of Term meal

18/03/25 – AGM

### **Music Hour**

Every second Wednesday of the month - 1.15pm to 2.30pm

Bring an instrument, sing-a-long or just enjoy a cuppa and a biscuit.

Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> March

Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> April

All ages welcome, suggested donation £2.

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

### **Friday 28th February 2025, 2pm**

'The Aire & Calder Navigation' – an illustrated talk by Mr David Taylor

### **Friday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2025, 2pm**

'Women at War – The Barnbow Story' – an illustrated talk by Jacki & Bob Lawrence.

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

## **Charitable Donations**

A big **Thank You** to everyone who gave so generously to St Gemma's Hospice & Action for Children at Christmas. £179.28, including £12.50 Gift Aid, was donated at the Carol Service for St Gemma's. £130.00 was raised in lieu of Christmas cards, £45.71 from singing carols on the Church steps and £282.55 donated at the Christmas services for Action for Children. With an additional £22.50 Gift Aid a total of £480.76 was raised.

The thank you letter from St Gemma's said: 'Your support means that we can continue caring for people with life limiting illnesses in Leeds, both in the Hospice and at home, so please pass on our sincere thanks to each person who helped to make this donation possible. 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 the most.'

In January I also received a thank you letter from the DEC Middle East Humanitarian Appeal. We donated £107.60. The thank you letter said: 'Your generosity is helping to provide life saving aid in Gaza, Lebanon and the wider region. DEC member charities and their local partners are responding right now providing shelter, food, clean water, medical care and much more. They are ready to act wherever the needs are greatest, and as the humanitarian crisis continues to evolve across the region. For more information on how and where DEC member charities are responding visit [www.dec.org.uk](http://www.dec.org.uk)

**Your continued support for these worthy causes is greatly appreciated. *Alison Lambert, Church Treasurer***

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## **Congratulations**

Many congratulations to Revd Janet Tate who is moving to Stockport as Superintendent. She will have two churches in her care plus oversight of a further eight churches in the Circuit.

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## **A prayer for Lent**

Lord God, save us

from the hurt pride that leads to anger,

from the self-centredness that makes us blind to the needs of others

from the selfishness that turns us in on ourselves

By the power of the Holy Spirit

help us to live as Jesus lived.

***Amen***

## **Throwback to March 1979, Throwback to March 1979**

***While Rev Becki is on sabbatical we will look back at the pieces Ministers wrote in the 60s, 70s and 80s for the newsletters of the time. We will also include some of the other newsletter content from the same edition. How much has changed and how much remains the same?***

My dear friends

Until there's more wealth to share, the only way for too-low-paid workers to get a fair deal is for others to be prepared to take less. Even those of us who are bewildered by economics can see that. Similarly, the only way for the millions who are poor to have a fair share is for rich nations to grab a little less of the world's cake.

Even at the beginning of Lent that kind of self-denial is a tall order or a forlorn hope.

It is significant as well as sad that the main form of self-denial practiced in the affluent West is to try to lose some excess weight by denying ourselves calories for the sake of our own health. Dieting is fine and personal health is part of our stewardship but there's more to self-denial than that. In Lenten terms it is meant to be a deliberate bridling of selfishness and self-concern for the sake of other people. Somehow the West and the nation and for that matter the church need to be persuaded about that.

All of this concerns stewardship. For a number of reasons, we have postponed our planned review until the Autumn but there are some immediate ways for each of us to make an individual review. This newsletter carries details of several openings needing time or talents or money. And clearly any of us whose income has improved over the last eighteen months will want to make the necessary adjustments in our weekly giving.

If you are to do that sort of reassessment for your own sake or for the sake of church, nation or world you will need some time to be quiet to think it through. That essentially is what 'imitation of Christ' in Lent is all about. The climax of a most enjoyable youth weekend I have just shared at Scarborough was in a period of silence. But we need to be quiet and still more than once a year. We all need a regular, even daily, place of quiet to retire to.....an inner room within ourselves...for renewing, refreshing, recovering perspective, listening.... to open the heart's door a little more to the healing mainstream of eternal Love.

Lent is a good time to start. *Rev Kenneth Taylor*

## **Throwback to March 1979, Throwback to March 1979**



## **Throwback to March 1979, Throwback to March 1979**

### **The March 1979 newsletter also included a report of the Scarborough weekend:**

We arrived in Scarborough on Saturday February 24<sup>th</sup> for our annual conference in which 59 of us joined. The main theme this year was future, past and present and how they affect our understanding of Holy Communion. Thoughts were first directed towards the future, and we considered how technological innovations would affect our lifestyles and religion and discussed the long term hopes of the church for unity within itself and the world. Through the use of exciting experimental games, we explored our reliance on the five senses; then a short summary of Christ's life showed how he had given us in Holy Communion something which we could relate to with all our senses.

On Sunday the Communion service dominated our thoughts. We began in the morning with a few guidelines from Mr Taylor by way of preparation. After a short breather the morning culminated in the celebration of Holy Communion which was followed by a period of silence. This silence provided time for private meditation and was found to be helpful and stimulating by the majority. On Sunday afternoon a desire was expressed to maintain in our daily lives and in our meetings with others the closeness to God we had experienced during our stay in Scarborough. The weekend was rounded off with an open forum for questions and finally prayers. Amidst all the discussions and hard work there was a fair amount of frivolity, and a good time was had by all. We wish to express our thanks to the leaders and all others concerned.

*Written by Tracy White, Elizabeth Dalby, Sarah Cousin, Anita Godwin.*

(Editor's note: we have different surnames now but are all still friends!)

### **The 1979 newsletter also included a reflection on 'lifestyle'**

As a theme for Lent the Division of Social Responsibility asks Methodists to look at lifestyles. We are all aware of the excessive contrasts between the affluent, greedy lifestyles of the advanced countries and the poor, meagre economies of most Third World Countries. It is clearly unjust and Christians often say so whilst making little or no effort to change the way things are. Does a Christian lifestyle imply changes in the way we order our lives, use our time and resources, spend our money? Is it about stewardship writ large in the whole of living, rather than a narrower view that tends to limit it to our church-based activities?

## **Throwback to March 1979, Throwback to March 1979**

## **Warm Spaces**

Over 14.4 million people live in poverty in the UK and 7% of people experience chronic loneliness.

It was estimated that at least 13 per cent of people living in England experienced fuel poverty last year, while many more felt that they could only justify putting on their heating during the most severe spells of weather.

### ***The Warm Welcome Campaign – Purpose and Vision***

*The Warm Welcome Campaign wants everyone in the UK to find a place of belonging and reconnection. Our vision is to enable a more deeply connected society where we all have free access to welcoming community spaces.*

*We resource, connect and champion a network of Warm Welcome Spaces and bring together a growing coalition of local, regional and national partners representing the worlds of charity, faith, business, government and philanthropy. By working together, we can unlock the power of community spaces made by and for everyone, creating a thriving network of hope and reconnection fuelled by human warmth.*

The Tuesday morning warm space our Church is currently offering the local community has been supported by a grant for which we are very grateful. Our thanks also go to those Church Members and others who are supporting this initiative by setting up the Hall, making hot drinks and snacks, providing homemade soup and just as importantly a warm welcome and a chat.

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## **This Newsletter**

This monthly Church newsletter is distributed to around 140 individuals and families (in both electronic and paper format) ten months of the year. Most recipients have some connection to Cross Gates Methodist Church but others do not. The newsletter is also available on the website.

If you know of anyone who would like to be added to the email mailing list then please ask them to send an email to Tracy Dick on [tracylouisedick@gmail.com](mailto:tracylouisedick@gmail.com) Equally if you no longer wish to receive the newsletter then please send an email to the same address.

We welcome articles to be included or ideas on the sort of thing you would like to see covered so please do get in touch (full details on back page) if you would like to contribute in any way.

***Tracy Dick, Newsletter Editor***



## **Memories of Keith Tingle, Margaret Barnett & Mavis Camp**

### **Margaret Barnett, Keith Tingle, Mavis Camp**

I had known Margaret Barnett since the very early sixties, my sister is about the same age, and they played out together. We lived on the Sutton Estate at Halton. Her dad was the gardener. When I joined Cross Gates Methodist Church, it was a lovely surprise to meet up again. Then we were both members of Crossgates Good Neighbours and sat and talked together a lot. Will be sad not to have a laugh and catch up again.

I met Keith through Jean, his wife. Mostly spoke to him when I was cleaning with Dorothy and Lorna. We were always cleaning Mondays when Keith would be helping set up for the Monday or Friday coffee mornings etc. Was always friendly and he will be missed.

I didn't know Mavis for long, but she was a friendly lady, quietly spoken but gave as good as she got. I send my love and condolences to their friends and family. ***Pauline Brown***

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### **Margaret Barnett and Mavis Camp**

Both Margaret and Mavis had been members of the Ladies' Friendship Group for many years.

Margaret had been associated with Cross Gates Methodist Church for a long time, she used to help with the Playgroup, over 30 years ago. More recently she was a regular helper at the Tots and Guests, one of her roles was to wash the toys before the children arrived, even though her health was not very good by then. Margaret continued to attend Ladies' Friendship, even when it became physically difficult for her.

Mavis had been coming to this Church even longer, she was baptised here over 80 years ago and attended Junior Church from the age of 5, when Margaret Rhodes was one of the teachers. Mavis later attended Stanks Church, until it closed, when she returned to worshipping here, her faith remained strong throughout her life. Although she was quiet, many people have mentioned what a great sense of humour she had. She and Brenda had been loyal friends since the age of 11.

Both Margaret and Mavis enjoyed the company, talks and meals of the Ladies' Friendship Group, and we will miss them at our meetings.

***Christine Holdstock (Chair of the Ladies' Friendship Group)***

## **Keith Tingle**

Growing up in the 60s and 70s, Keith and Jean, with daughters Deborah and Beverley, were my family's next door but one neighbours. In between was another recently passed Cross Gates Methodist stalwart Joan Jackson, and her family. Next to the Tingles on the other side was my oldest friend Melanie and her parents.

I didn't realise then, of course, what special times those were, growing up in a community of friendly neighbours who all looked out for each other - children playing, grown-ups chatting over the garden fence. I remember Keith and Jean with fondness. Keith always had a smile and seemed quietly self-assured. As an adult, and having moved away, he was always keen to ask how I was doing at my annual pilgrimage to the Christmas Eve Midnight Communion and to find out how my family were, especially my parents, as they had moved to a bungalow for their retirement. I lost my dad 14 years ago and following the deaths of Jean and Joan, Keith and my mum were the only parents left from those halcyon days. My mum and Keith continued to exchange Christmas cards, but sadly only met up at the occasional funeral.

Now there's just my mum, Helen. She was upset by the news of Keith's passing and our condolences go to Deborah and Beverley and their families.

***Sarah Beadsworth (nee Cousin)***

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## **Keith Tingle**

Since I first attended this Church almost 40 years ago, Keith has almost always been there, either helping with work on the building or preparing the meticulous accounts for the Church Council meeting. A happy family man, Keith was a good friend to me. When we met, he was always reminding me with a smile that I was just a little younger than him! Keith helped one lady who loved her cat dearly, leaving him to Keith in her Will. Keith did not like cats! Happily, he found a good, caring home for the much-loved pet.

We were both members of the Church Walking Group which Brian Dean started many years ago. Keith organised some of the walks with much laughter and a few complaints – 'how much longer is this walk!' Happy times. ***Beryl Gledhill***

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## **Keith Tingle**

Keith Tingle was a true friend and companion who is sorely missed. A man, who until his debilitating illness, put maximum time and energy to the things that were important to him.

When we joined our Church around 42 years ago the Church was looking at a Stewardship campaign – exploring how we could better use our time and money – and as Church Treasurer Keith headed this project - with renewal campaigns every 4 years or so. Indeed, he continued not only as our Church Treasurer; guiding our finances but also as Circuit Financial Steward – both jobs he held to way past normal retirement age.

Keith and his wife Jean were early members of the Rambling Club, with a love of walking. I remember with joy the friendship generated with this group as we walked through sunshine, rain and snow. Keith was responsible for the Winter Walk programme, often with walks around 20 miles long. Keith and Jean often planned walking weekends and then longer weeks away for the Club, which were enjoyed by all members. The West Highland Way was walked by Jean and Keith covering 96 miles from Glasgow to Fort William and Cynthia and I walked the Cleveland Way (109 miles) with them from Helmsley, and the Dales Way from Ilkley to Windermere, 81 miles.

The comradeship of the Men's Fellowship Group was enjoyed and both Keith and Jean were long time members of Wednesday at 8. Keith had a deep, strong, singing voice and together with Peter Motley, Alan Tate and Raymond Winders, joined Leeds Male voice choir. Both rehearsals and concerts were really enjoyed by Keith and membership continued until the Choir was disbanded. We were able to share another important thing in Keith's life. Keith had been taken to Headingley to see Leeds Rhinos at an early age and followed the team through good times and bad, firstly with Don Oates and then it was a privilege for Cynthia and I to accompany him.

He was so proud of his family - daughters, grandchildren and great-granddaughter. Keith had a sound alert mind even when his body failed, and we never once heard him complain.

We have spent many happy times with Keith and Jean and miss them both. **John and Cynthia Best**

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*Gracious God, creator of life, carrier of hope, make your presence known among us. Enable us to be brave in our remembering, honest in our sorrow and open in our love and compassion to each other. Help us to seek not so much answers to our questions, but, rather, the patience to mourn and grieve. Enable us to remember with joy the lives of those we have loved. Send us your peace. Amen*

**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.

**Service Options:** Please do contact Barbara Lloyd if you would like to receive details of worship via email or would like to have printed worship sheets delivered.

**After Church Coffee Rota:**

02/03/25 – John Best & Neil Smith

09/03/25 – Linda Booth & Neil Smith

16/03/25 – Georgina Cressey & Neil Smith

23/03/25 – Carol Smith & Neil Smith

30/03/25 – June Holliday & Neil Smith

**Websites:**

Circuit: [www.leedsnandemethodist.org.uk](http://www.leedsnandemethodist.org.uk)

District: [www.yorkshirewestmethodist.org.uk](http://www.yorkshirewestmethodist.org.uk)

**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 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 (contact details below).

**Newsletter:** Please email contributions for the Newsletter to Tracy Dick [tracylouisedick@gmail.com](mailto:tracylouisedick@gmail.com) Deadlines coming up: Sunday 16th March, Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> April, 18<sup>th</sup> May.

**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*