



CROSSGATES METHODIST CHURCH Newsletter May 2025

MINISTER: Rev Becki Stennett

May Services

4 May – 10.30am		Miss Mary Patchett
4 May – 4pm	Circuit Service (at Roscoe)	
11 May – 10.30am		Mr Andy Birkett
18 May – 10.30am	Holy Communion	Revd Joyce Nicholson
25 May – 10.30am		Dr Karen Illingworth
29 May – 7.30pm	Holy Communion (at Oakwood)	Revd Gemma Fleury

Communion Stewards for May are Cynthia Best & Georgina Cressey

Pentecost

God's Spirit is approaching

Through time, across continents, soaring over creation

God's Spirit is speaking

Whispering and comforting, roaring and challenging

God's Spirit surrounds us

Beyond touch, warmly embracing

God's Spirit transforms us

Making our horizons wider, our faith stronger, our hopes possible

Church Flowers

Flowers for Palm Sunday were donated by **Alison Marr in memory of her Dad and Auntie**. They have been put in the Wesley Room due to service being held in there at 6pm.

In general, the recent cost of fresh flowers has been topped up from the flower fund.

Donations towards the cost of fresh flowers would be greatly appreciated. Please contact Georgina or Barbara if you want flowers arranged in memory of anybody or for something special.

Thank you all for your support

Charitable Donation

We received the following message from Bridget Collins, Supporter Services Officer at Action for Children:

“We were so grateful to receive your recent donation of **£480.76** on behalf of Cross Gates Methodist Church. We hope you all had a lovely time fundraising for us, we truly appreciate your continued support.

Thanks to the generosity of amazing people like you, last year Action for Children supported 765,905, children, young people and families.

We deliver 426 services within local communities across the UK, in schools and online. And we work across four areas of work – children in care, disabled children, family support and mental health and wellbeing

Our mission is to protect and support children and young people. We do this by providing practical and emotional care and support. We make sure their voices are heard. And we campaign to bring lasting improvements to their lives.

You can read more about our work and impact on our website – www.actionforchildren.org.uk/our-work-and-impact

Thanks to our network of local services, we’re making a difference to the lives of thousands of children throughout the UK.

Your incredible support is really appreciated.”

Alison Lambert, Church Treasurer

Table Top Sales – 3rd May & 7th 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 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!

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 and a snack.

Cross Gates Methodist Church Drop-In

Cross Gates & District Good Neighbours' Scheme CIO

Working with and for older people

First Monday of the month: 10am – 11.30am

Come and join us for a cuppa in a relaxed and friendly environment. We can let you know what's on locally and the services we offer.

For further information, drop into our office, call 0113 260 6565 or email Claire.Wall@crossgatesgns.org.uk

Ladies Friendship Group

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

13/05/2025 – Rev Becki Stennett, Sabbatical Reflections

20/05/2025 – Programme planning and AGM

27/05/2025 – End of term lunch

Wednesday Group

This takes place weekly at 2.30pm and will recommence on June 5th.

East Leeds History & Archaeology Society

Friday 25th April at 2pm

'Burmantofts Pottery, a look at the designs and designers of the Victorian Leeds Pottery' – an illustrated talk by Ms Lesley Newman

Friday 30th May at 2pm

'Lost Descendants of King Henry VIII? – and Queen Elizabeth 1st's Rival' – an illustrated talk by Mr David Glover

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

Throwback to May 1989, Throwback to May 1989

We continue to look back at the pieces Ministers wrote in the 60s, 70s and 80s for the newsletters of the time. We have also included some of the other newsletter content from the same edition. How much has changed and how much remains the same?

My dear friends

He's done it again – David Jenkins, Bishop of Durham, I mean.

It's a long time since the Ascension rated a place in the news headlines as it did last Sunday.

Most people in this country have no idea or care about what or when Ascension Day is. I suspect that there are many in the churches who are unsure about why or how it represents so important a part of our faith.

If you have ever wondered what will happen to you when you die or whether you will ever 'see' again those you love who have died or even what the world is coming to – the only place you will find the Christian answers is amongst the many meanings of Ascensiontide.

You know, as I do, that what the Bishop said is neither new nor heresy. He is trying to help thinking people to think again about a belief they have rejected as being naïve and irrelevant. And if you take the Ascension story literally it is both of those things.

Of course, the story is symbolic – like so much in the gospels. We know that. The people who wrote it down knew that. They were not as naïve as it is sometimes assumed. What matters is what this 'symbol' represents.

Jesus did not go up 'in space' but in authority. It's one thing to say Jesus is alive (and well and working in Cross Gates). It adds another dimension to claim he is 'not only living but Lord' – Lord of life and death, Lord of time, of space, Lord of nature, Lord of all worlds, of all things, of all creation.

Throwback to May 1989, Throwback to May 1989

Throwback to May 1989, Throwback to May 1989

On Good Friday you see Love that has no limit – and Easter proclaims that Love is far stronger than death. Ascension adds that this eternal, unlimited Love is far stronger than death. Ascension adds that this eternal, unlimited Love has absolute sovereignty over everything else – that Jesus has and is the final word.

To say 'Jesus Christ is Lord' means for the church that we must stand together for the priorities of Christ in every aspect of life.

For you personally it means:

- that Christ is not only with you but for you – that eternal Love is working on your behalf
- that he is not only with you but over you – and all the forces which manipulate or dominate you are finally in his control
- that he is not only with you here and now but that 'beyond our horizons' you will be with him.

Yours sincerely, *Rev Kenneth Taylor*

M.H.A. After ten and a half years of planning, praying, campaigning, waiting and wondering, it was a relief as well as a joy to welcome the President of the Conference to officially open Tranquility Court Sheltered Housing at 3pm on Saturday 8th April 1989.

The local MHA committee wish to thank all those who worked so hard to ensure that the opening went well. The catering team from the Circuit led by Mary Dalby, Lesley Motley and Gillian Thomas prepared a first class buffet; the flowers arranged by Barbara Leeming, Gillian Thomas and Evelyn Race were beautiful; sorting through lists of names and addresses to help compile the guest list was efficiently managed by Barbara Thompson. The music by Leslie Dalby, Lesley and Bruce Budd and their two friends from Opera North and the Chris, Mark and John trio added greatly to the service. Harry Drake's stewards were extremely well drilled and David Leeming and his team very diligent car park attendants. Thank you also to Brian Dean for a warm church, the weekly cleaning team for their special effort and all those who helped in any way to make it a 'Good Day'.

Christian Aid Week 1989. This is the time when all the churches together go to the nation in the name of God who judges nations not by their political influence or economic achievement but by how they treat the poor and needy and alien.

Throwback to May 1989, Throwback to May 1989



Our local foodbank started in October 2013 with one distribution centre which has now increased to 10 distribution centres within South and East Leeds. Various reasons cause

people to need help from the foodbank, such as low income, benefit changes and delays, delayed wages and various other situations. The foodbank works with a number of companies, schools and organisations who donate food, money and also provide volunteers. This foodbank is a project founded by local churches and community groups, working together towards stopping hunger in our local area.

This month they especially need tinned potatoes, tinned fruit, UHT milk, tinned vegetables and biscuits.

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

Christian Aid

Christian Aid week is 11th – 17th May this year

‘For 80 years Christian Aid has been fighting poverty and injustice. With your support, we’ve been able to offer hope to communities who need it most. And over these 80 years, we’ve harnessed something formidable. Something that can’t be silenced by injustice. Something that refuses to sit back and watch poverty ravage communities. We call it the unstoppable power of hope. Together we can make hope unstoppable. Right now, we need the power of hope more than ever. As tragic events continue to unfold across the world, we can’t stop here. Donate and help us in making lasting change possible.’

You can donate via the Christian Aid website

www.christianaid.org.uk by phone on 020 7523 2269 or by sending a cheque to Christian Aid, 35-41 Lower Marsh, London, SE1 7RL

Praise to the Lord,
who, when darkness of sin is abounding,
who, when the godless do triumph,
all virtue confounding,
sheddeth his light,
chaseth the horrors of night,
saints with his mercy surrounding.

A Message from Pauline Timms

After 50 years of worshipping at Cross Gates, I find that the time has come when I will have my membership transferred to Lidgett Park, which is near where I live. I had a bad fall the other week and due to health problems, the doctors have advised me not to drive, so I have had to give my car up.

I have seen Ministers come and go and the same with the congregation. I have made lots of friends, especially those who attended the Thursday Devotional Class.

June, my sister will keep me informed of any news.

Wishing you all a happy future at Cross Gates, I will keep you all in my mind, especially in my prayers.

God Bless, Pauline Timms

Crusading

We went on an Easter campaign with a college mission band.

Unfortunately, there had been little preparation for our visit, and we had to deliver publicity and invitations ourselves.

As time was pressing, we had to make individual visits rather than go in twos.

Eric was in one house for a very long time and emerged with much literature from the lady of the house and had not managed to leave any of ours.

It transpired that she was an ardent Rechabite and had launched into a much-practised diatribe on the evils of alcohol.

At one point Eric had managed to interject:

'Well you must remember that our Lord turned water into wine'

to evoke the rejoinder

'I don't think any better of him for that!'

From the book 'A funny thing happened on the way to the vestry – a smile on every page' by the late Rev Ken Taylor. With thanks to John Best for loaning the book.

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: 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

Please do join us for a hot drink and fellowship.

The rota for May is:

May 4th – Georgina Cressey & Neil Smith

May 11th – Carol Smith & June Holliday

May 18th – David Barrett & Neil Smith

May 25th – Margaret Saysell & Neil Smith

Websites: Circuit: www.leedsnandemethodist.org.uk

District: 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 (see below for contact details)

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

Sunday 18th May, Sunday 22nd June.

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