



# **CROSSGATES METHODIST CHURCH Newsletter June 2025**

MINISTER: Rev Becki Stennett

## **Badges**

As I think most of you know I took my three month sabbatical from Boxing Day until 26<sup>th</sup> March this year. The gift of this sabbatical in every seventh year of ministry for Ordained people in the Methodist Church is a profound one indeed, in which we're invited to rest, to feast on elements of our own spirituality and discipleship that we don't get to give time to usually, and to worship in different ways.

It may not surprise you to know that I was a bit daunted by the prospect of not being busy, so, as well as planning some studying, and focussing on resting with my family and being present for my children more of the time than I can usually manage, I also planned a couple of little projects to prevent myself from feeling idle.

For one of those projects, I offered to raise a little bit of money for the Scout Group my son is part of by sewing on badges to uniforms and blankets, hopefully giving some relief to households where badges pile up and the idea of sewing them on is a bit daunting. Since I love sewing badges on for my resident Scout and Brownie, I thought I'd probably enjoy doing this too.

It turned out to be a much deeper enjoyment than I anticipated! Stitch by stitch, as I sewed on the badges belonging to young people, I tried to imagine the things they had done to earn the badges, and how much fun they'd had. I felt some of the pride I have for my own children when they earn badges bubble up inside me, and I loved sending messages to their parents to say I'd completed the sewing, and how well their wonderful children were doing to achieve so much.

As I sewed on the badges belonging to adult members (who, like me, have a tendency to collect badges and neglect to sew them onto their

blankets), I especially noticed the badges that demonstrated we'd been to the same places, completed the same challenges, or even been at the same events at the same time, despite having been living in entirely different parts of the country at the time! I would send a message or catch them for a conversation where we could share thoughts about a particular campsite or the capers of taking groups of young people to large events.

Above anything else, this project enabled me, in some small ways, to get to know people that I only ever really pass for a moment. In gaining a little bit of an insight into their lives and achievements, I gained a deeper respect, affection and care for them in a way I didn't see coming. In a world which seems to move so quickly, and in which it seems there is a rising trend amongst some world leaders for trying to alienate us from people who are different to us in some way, I treasured the little ways I built connections with people simply by sewing badges, and I feel a renewed sense of determination to find other small ways to make connections with others going forward.

In the Gospel of John, we're told that, shortly after washing his disciples' feet, Jesus says to them: *'I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another.'* (John 13: 34).

Jesus took time to come close, build connections with his friends, even so intimately as to wash their feet, seeing the story every callous and crack would tell of their journeyings.

That's how Jesus chooses to love us – not abstractly as a collective like we might say 'oh I love the Spanish, they're so friendly', or even 'I love Methodists, they're so welcoming'. Jesus loves us each, individually, knowing us intimately, and calls us to seek to love each other in the same way too.

So, I'm inviting you into some greater knowledge of each other, and especially of those people you only ever pass for moments.

Is there a way you can take time to chat to the person who delivers your post, or collects the bins, the person on the counter at the Post Office or at the till? Is there a way to get to know people that you see regularly on the bus or in the waiting room at the doctors?

Are there small ways in which we each can move from more generally loving all people because that's what we know is right, to finding a deeper love for individuals who are even tiny parts of our lives, appreciating the journey they are taking through life and recognising the surprising similarities as well as the interesting differences?

I don't think it's easy, and our modern society is not geared up to this. This is, in fact, a revolution we are called to! A revolution of love and care for every individual we meet. Let's go! **Revd Becki**

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### **June Services**

|                   |  |                                 |
|-------------------|--|---------------------------------|
| 1 June – 10.30am  |  | Revd Steven Jones               |
| 8 June – 10.30am  | Holy Communion<br>(at Manston Park –<br>more information to<br>follow) | Revd Becki Stennett             |
| 15 June – 10.30am |  | Mrs Janice Green                |
| 22 June – 10.30am |  | Mr John Summerwill              |
| 29 June – 10.30am |  | Streaming Conference<br>Service |

*Communion Stewards for June are Carol Smith & Neil Smith*

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### **Church Flowers**

Easter flowers were put in the Church entrance due to it being holy communion and the decorating of the cross. The flower fund provided these. On the 11th May **Jennie Reeves** donated flowers in memory of her **two sisters and brother**. Donations have since been received from **Beryl Gledhill** and **Dorothy Weston** to be used at a convenient time when there are spaces free. Thank you both. Georgina and Barbara thank everyone for donations. Flowers are getting more expensive, often the price is the same, but the bunches are smaller.

*Please pass any donations to Georgina or Barbara and we will try our best to keep to the dates you want.*

*Contact are Georgina Cressey or Barbara Leeming.*

### **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.

The first Monday of each month (June 2<sup>nd</sup>) includes a 'drop in' provided by Cross Gates and District Good Neighbours Scheme. they can let you know what's on locally and the services they offer.

## **Table Top Sales – 7th June & 5th July 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.*

04/6 – Opening Session, tea/coffee, quiz and chatter

11/6 – Poreč and the Istrian Riviera, an illustrated talk by Roy Cressey

18/6 – A game of bingo with Carol Smith

25/6 – A record selection with John Blyth

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

### **Friday 30th May 2pm**

‘Lost Descendants of King Henry VIII? – and Queen Elizabeth 1<sup>st</sup>’s Rival’  
– an illustrated talk by David Glover.

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

## **Christchurch Halton, Memorial Service**

Everyone is invited to a Memorial Service on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> June at 4pm. You can go along, light a candle in memory of a loved one and be part of a short service of readings and prayers.

## **Christchurch Halton, Lunch Club**

There are spaces at Christchurch’s Lunch Club which meets each Thursday from 12.15 to 1.45pm. Catered by ‘Presto’ and Church volunteers, a three course meal plus tea or coffee is available for just £7. Booking is required by the preceding Tuesday so please phone Audrey on 0113 264 7162 to secure your place. **New patrons are not only welcome but are now essential to keep this service viable.**

## **East Leeds Repair Café**

### **Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> June, 11am to 2pm in the Church Hall.**

You are invited to bring items in need of repair to try and keep them out of our city dumps as well as helping to reduce the cost of replacing these items when it is unnecessary. Volunteers will attempt to help you repair your item(s), sharing their skills and talents as well as their passion for

our community and for creation. If a volunteer does not feel able to repair your item, they will try to offer advice as to how it can be repaired.

## **Friday 30<sup>th</sup> May at 7pm at the Social Club on Poplar**

**Avenue** there will be a fundraising event to support the Repair Café. They need to raise funds to buy and replace tools. Please support them

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## **The Methodist Church welcomes pope Leo XIV's election, and we offer our prayers for his papacy**

Methodist people cherish our place in the worldwide church, and our relationships with the Roman Catholic Church at local, national and international levels. We look forward to ever more opportunities to share with our Catholic siblings in the mission of the Church. We pray that all church leaders listen to the voices of the poor and the oppressed, and speak out for justice, as we share God's love.

### **A prayer on the election of Pope Leo XIV:**

God of all grace,

We thank you that in every generation you reveal your love for the world, and set before your people your word of life and hope.

Bless and guide your servant, Pope Leo XIV.

Give him the assurance of your love, and pour your Spirit upon him; may his ministry reflect that of your Son Jesus, and let him be a bold witness to your love and truth.

Bless our siblings in the Roman Catholic Church as they welcome their new Holy Father. May he lead their Church with wisdom and grace.

Together with Pope Leo unite all Christians as a holy people, bearing hope and peace within the human family, and always attentive to the most poor and marginalized.

In the name of our Risen Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ we pray.

**Amen**

## **Leeds South and East Foodbank (Trussell Trust) Helping local people in crisis**

The Foodbank sent a poster (see the corridor noticeboard) thanking everyone at Church for supporting the South & East Foodbank. From 1/4/24 to 31/3/25 our Church donated **1,541 kg** of food. This is the

equivalent to **3,670 meals**. They told us that this made a BIG difference to people in crisis.

If you would like to contribute food/toiletries there is a basket in the Galilee or you can contact John Best email [jvbest39@hotmail.com](mailto:jvbest39@hotmail.com) who will gladly collect.

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### **Thanks for Charitable Donations**

**UNICEF** – Thank you so much for raising £116.50 to support UNICEF's vital work for children. 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 organization. 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. And we never give up.

**MHA** – Thank you for your generous donation of £100 to MHA. Your gift will enable more people to live later life well, bringing joy, comfort and friendship to those we support. Your gift will support our projects and care homes which are greatly enhanced through kind gifts such as yours.

**St George's Crypt** – Thank you so much for the very kind donation to our work. We really do appreciate your generosity. 'Our life does not consist in making up beautiful phrases but in performing beautiful deeds...'

**Benevolent Fund of the Yorkshire West Methodist District** – Thank you for your donation of £90. It is much appreciated. God bless you all.

**Methodist Women in Britain** – Our Easter offering raised a total of £93 for this cause (including £10 gift aid). A cheque was given on behalf of the Church at the Circuit service on 4<sup>th</sup> May. Many thanks to everyone who donated.

***Alison Lambert, Church Treasurer***

## **A Message from our new Minister**

Greetings to you all,

I'm looking forward to moving to Leeds North East and getting to know you all. Let me tell you a little about myself.

I'm Janet, I'm moving to Leeds North and East in an early, unexpected move from Peterborough. Moving with me is my husband of 42 years, Barry, who you will get to know as he often gets involved in my churches with me. We also bring our cocker spaniel Wesley, who is very gentle and friendly, but please do let us know if you'd rather not be greeted by him!

We have two adult sons, James and Jonathan, who both live in the Leeds area with their respective partners. It will be good to be able to spend some family time with them all after living miles apart for 10 years.

As you get to know me you will discover that I love to preach, teach and sing – for me, hymns are such an important part of worship. I'm willing to have a go at most things in church life, to learn new things as well as enjoying and treasuring the things that we love.

Outside of work I love football, having followed Newcastle United all my life, and music – brass bands and Gilbert and Sullivan are great favourites. I watch too much TV, and drink too much tea. If I am coming to visit, please get the kettle on!

Most of all, I'm looking forward to finding out what God is doing in your church and community, and joining in. Praying God's blessing on you all as we prepare to "serve the present age" – working together to reveal the Kingdom just where God has placed us.

***With my love, Rev Janet***

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## **Church Christmas Fair**

Would you be able to organise or help with organising a Christmas Fair this year? The Fair raises much-needed funds for Church and it is also an important part of our outreach work.

***Please contact a Steward for more details if you are interested.***

**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:** Please do join us for a hot drink and fellowship. The rota for June is:

1st – John Best & Neil Smith

8th – Georgina Cressey & Neil Smith

15th – Linda Booth & Neil Smith

22nd – Carol Smith & Neil Smith

29th – June Holliday & Georgina Cressey

**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 (see below for contact details)

**Newsletter:** Please email contributions for the Newsletter to Tracy Dick [tracylouisedick@gmail.com](mailto:tracylouisedick@gmail.com). Deadlines coming up:

**Sunday 22nd June (July and August editions), Sunday 22nd August**



**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*