



CROSSGATES METHODIST CHURCH Newsletter July & August 2025

MINISTER: Rev Becki Stennett

July & August Services

06 July – 10.30am		Mr Andy Birkett
13 July – 10.30am	Holy Communion	Revd Becki Stennett
20 July – 10.30am		Revd Timothy Nicholls
27 July – 10.30am		Prof Peter D. Howdle
27 July – 4pm	Farewell Service	at Christ Church
03 Aug – 10.30am		Mrs Hazel Featherstone
10 Aug – 10.30am	Holy Communion	Revd Joyce Nicholson
17 Aug – 10.30am		Stewards & Worship Leaders
24 Aug – 10.30am		Mrs Catherine Frieze
31 Aug – 10.30am	Joint service	at Christ Church
31 Aug – 2.30pm	Welcome Service	At Lidgett Park

Communion Stewards for July are Carol Smith & June Holliday and in August they are Denise Durkin & Keith Westbrook.

A Prayer

Gracious God,
We lift before you all those impacted by the escalation of violence in the world.
We ask your blessing on the peacebuilders.
Strengthen we pray our resolve to be people of Your peace.
Lord in your mercy. Hear our prayer. **Amen**

Church Flowers

Due to buses not running through Cross Gates last Saturday, Jennie Reeves' flowers will be arranged for 27th June 2025. Due to other commitments and the heat, it was decided to use the artificial flowers for this weekend, 20th June. Dorothy Weston's flowers will be arranged for 6th July if all goes to plan. We should then be back to normal. Please bear with me during this time.

Barbara and Georgina thank you for your support and donations to keep fresh flowers in Church most Sundays.

Contact: Georgina Cressey or Barbara Leeming . Or see Georgina in Church.

Sunday in the Park with.....Becki!

I must admit I was doubtful about a service in the park, but it turned out to be a lovely occasion. No rain, little wind with twenty of us in all, including Reuben, and the singing wasn't too bad either. Above all Becki's enthusiasm, pink shoes and flash of blond hair carried the day, with a surprise at the end – tea, coffee and biscuits at Christ Church, Manston Gardens.

Dorothy Weston

Thanks for Charitable Donation

Thank you for donating £277.000 to the DEC Myanmar Earthquake Appeal. Thanks to your incredible generosity DEC (Disasters Emergency Committee) member charities and their trusted local partner organisations are delivering lifesaving aid to people in urgent need. Because of you, they are able to help provide medical care, safe shelter, clean water and much more. DEC charities have worked in Myanmar for decades and have a strong local partner base, rooted in the affected communities. They continue to assess the ever-changing situation to ensure aid gets to the people who need it most. On behalf of all those your donation will support, we want to say thank you once again. Your support is making an incredible impact.

Alison Lambert, Church Treasurer

From our Senior Steward, Barbara Lloyd

I want to keep you informed about what is happening in our Church.

We all understand how difficult it must be for our Minister to fit in chairing all the meetings they are obliged to attend when they have responsibility for five Churches.

Because of this we have to try and find ways of changing our ways of working so that each Church has an 'equal share' of the Minister's time and all the formally required meetings take place.

One of the ways we have changed our practice is that the Stewards of all Rev. Becki's Churches meet together several times a year at one of her Churches; we each give a brief update about things that have happened in our individual Churches, what has been good or not so good, any concerns we have, or things we want to discuss after lunch. Yes.... We have a faith lunch! This joint meeting saves the Minister several separate meetings, plus from our point of view it is good for us to hear what is happening at other Churches and eat together.

After lunch, we each have a blank preaching plan for the coming quarter, and we go through it week by week to make sure:

- Each Church celebrates Communion once a month
- The Minister attends (if possible) individual Church's Special services, eg Memorial Service, Ash Wednesday
- We may suggest another Minister or Local Preacher who we would like to take a service if the Minister cannot take it

For special services like Christmas and Easter we all have to take it in turns to have our Minister to lead it OR decide whether we will change the time of the service OR join with another Church. None of these are ideal as none of us like change, but it will never go back to having one Minister for every one or two Churches.

Your feedback is very welcome about services, what you like and what you don't. But we all need to accept that we can no longer expect our Minister to take all the services we would like at the time we would like.

In the near future we plan to join with other Churches for some other meetings, a joint property meeting has already taken place and a meeting of secretaries. Joint Church Councils need more consideration.

Thank you all for your support, Barbara

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 – 5th July, 2nd August and 6th 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.

2 July	A Musical Afternoon by the Concordia Choir	Georgina Cressey
09 July	Hazel Featherstone shares with us again	Roy Cressey
16 July	What 'Safeguarding'? - John Best	Barbara Lloyd
23 July	Brooch Boggan tells us about Social Care	Cynthia Best
30 July	Colours of the Church with Christine Holdstock	John Blyth
6 Aug	Bill Ineson delights us again with his Frag Bag	Georgina Cressy
13 Aug	Annual General Meeting & The Future	Roy Cressey
20 Aug	End of Session Lunch	
27 Aug	NO MEETING – bank holiday	

East Leeds History & Archaeology Society

These popular talks are now paused during the Summer period. Updated news will be available shortly.

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

Summer Update from Connecting Crossgates

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 9am - 11am.**

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

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.

Leeds South & East Foodbank **helping local people in crisis**

In Leeds East, foodbanks in the Trussell community distributed 4,085 food parcels to people facing hardship between April 2024 and March 2025. 1,507 of these were for children.

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.

Nancy Whiteley

As many of you will know, this time is one in which we can celebrate with Nancy; that it is seventy years since she became a Local Preacher, and one hundred years since she was born.

I write this in tribute to her, as I have known her for a long time. She has always been very kind to my Mum and Dad and to Mavis and me.

When she was a member at Stanks she served the Lord in many ways, with her organ playing, fellowship leading and other ways which I have forgotten now!

Above all, Nancy always visited and kept in touch with friends at Church and people who were associated with our Church, if they needed a friendly visit. When she was unable to continue to do this due to her own, or her husband Jack's ill health, she wrote to people, to show them that they were not forgotten.

I know that Nancy continued her theological studies through correspondence courses for several years. I know too that she has had a lifetime of caring for close members of her own family, who have been the better for it.

I hope that many of you will join me in supporting Nancy, in prayer and in friendship.

Brenda M. Bosomworth

A Christian Aid prayer for a just peace in the Middle East

God, hear our prayers for peace in the Middle East.

May all people in the region be protected, safe from harm.

We pray that this crisis will end now, with no further loss of life.

God, may the injured and distressed know your healing presence.

May the powerful and the decision-makers follow the paths of justice, mercy and peace.

We pray for recognition of the dignity and value of every life.

May the clamour of violence cease,

Replaced by the beating of swords into ploughshares.

God, in your name,

Amen

Gaza Justice Campaign

Extracts from a joint update from All We Can and the Methodist Church in Britain

As justice seekers we can't stay silent!

We cannot stay silent in the face of atrocities that continue to be perpetrated in Gaza. We have a duty to stand in solidarity with our partners on the ground who are bravely continuing their life-transforming work in the face of 'mass forced hunger, mass forced displacement, mass killings and mass atrocities.'

In November, All We Can, the Methodist Church in Britain and the United Reform Church launched the joint '**Gaza and Lebanon Justice appeal**' to raise awareness of the unfolding disaster, and to meet the humanitarian need resulting from the worsening crisis in Gaza and Lebanon. But to give financial support alone is not sufficient.

We will act and call for justice.

We believe that all are made in the image of God, each worthy of equal value and dignity. God wills the flourishing of creation and human community within it. We believe, that in solidarity with others, we are called to challenge injustice that contradicts God's plan for a just world. We have a duty to use our voices and power to challenge what is unjust. The UK government, along with France and Canada in a joint statement has called on Israel to halt military operations and allow humanitarian aid to enter the territory. It says that 'We will not stand by while the Netanyahu government pursues these egregious actions. If Israel does not cease the renewed military offensive and lift its restrictions on humanitarian aid, we will take further concrete actions in response'. However, despite the suspension of some arms export licenses to Israel in September last year, the UK still supplies components that are used in combat aircraft operations in Gaza, and we are concerned that these concrete actions are an empty threat which will not alleviate the suffering of the Palestinian people.

Therefore, we call on the UK Government to act with decency and morality, and to urgently implement these threatened actions. We encourage people to **write to their MPs** to echo this call. We also ask that people continue to support our partners by **donating to our appeal** and find out more about their work. We offer this prayer for the decision-makers, may they be guided by what is right and have the courage to act. We commit to working towards a just and lasting peace, and the recognition of the state of Palestine alongside the state of Israel.

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.

After Church Coffee

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

6th July – John Best & Neil Smith

13th July – Linda Booth & Neil Smith

20st July – Margaret Saysell & Neil Smith

29th July – David Barrett & Neil Smith

3rd Aug – Georgina Cressey & Neil Smith

10th Aug – Carol Smith & Neil Smith

17th Aug – David Barrett & Neil Smith

24th Aug – Margaret Saysell & Neil Smith

31st Aug – June Holliday & Neil Smith

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

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, please continue sending them to the Church's address.

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 Leeds North & East Methodist Circuit Website,

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 17th August** (for September) and **Saturday 13th 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