



**CROSSGATES METHODIST  
CHURCH**

**Newsletter**

**April 2023**

**MINISTER: Rev Helen White**

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**No 697 March 2023**

At the moment I often find myself reflecting on what was happening three years ago. I think this is because, as I prepare worship, I look back to see what I did last time those readings appeared, so I don't repeat myself too much! The lectionary is a three year cycle so we are using the same readings we were three years ago, as life was changing and our lives were restricted in ways we never imagined.

In my letter for the April newsletter 3 years ago I commented it looked like we were in for a long Lent. What a good job none of us knew then quite how long it would be before we could share in Communion, as we finally did a year later. And it was only last Easter, 2 years on, that we finally gathered round the table, rather than remaining distanced in the pews. The liturgical year may say that it's time to celebrate the resurrection but the circumstances of our lives may mean that's not where we feel we are. That applied to many of us 3 years ago. At other times we may be in one place, whilst others around us are in another. One may be celebrating, whilst another is weeping. One may feel like it's Good Friday, another is stuck in the emptiness of Holy Saturday, whilst a third is full of the joy of resurrection.

I still remember one particular Easter morning when I was really not feeling like it was Easter. In my mind and emotions I was still in Good Friday, or at best Holy Saturday. But I walked into church, and began the service as I always do, with the Easter greeting, 'Alleluia! Christ is risen.'

And the congregation at that service responded so immediately, positively and confidently, 'He is risen indeed. Alleluia!' that, at least for that moment, I knew again that Jesus was alive.

How will we create space for us each to be where we are, finding ways to celebrate with those who celebrate and weep with those who weep?

**Whatever you do, wherever you are, may you know the presence and peace of the risen Christ with you.**

**Helen**

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### **April Services (including Easter)**

*All services will take place in the Church building*

2 April – 10.30am	Palm Sunday Holy Communion	Revd Helen White
6 April – 7.30am	Maunday Thursday Holy Communion <i>(Colton – all welcome)</i>	Revd Helen White
7 April – 11am	Good Friday <i>(Cross Gates)</i>	Churches Together Reading of the Passion
7 April – 7.30pm	Good Friday <i>(Christchurch)</i>	Dr Nicola A. Robinson
9 April – 9am *	Easter Breakfast	
9 April - 10.30am	Easter Day <i>(All are welcome to stay for coffee after the service)</i>	Mr Andy Birkett
16 April – 10.30am		Prof Peter D. Howdle
23 April – 10.30am		Revd Mark Stennett
30 April – 10.30am	Holy Communion	Revd Helen White

*Communion Stewards are Carol Smith and Cynthia Best*

**\*Please let a Steward or Denise Durkin know if you will be joining us for Easter Breakfast.**

## **Church Flowers**

Flowers on 5th March were donated by **Carol Smith**.

Flowers for 19th March were funded from the flower kitty and arranged in remembrance of **Harry Drake** as his funeral took place on the following Tuesday.

Barbara Leeming and Georgina Cressey thank everyone for their donations. Please contact Georgina on 0113 294 4906 or Barbara on 0113 281 3554 if you would like flowers arranging for someone special.

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## **Church AGM**

The Church's AGM will take place after the Sunday morning service on 30<sup>th</sup> April 2023. All welcome to attend.

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## **Coronation Celebration**

There will be a Church lunch and party after the service on Sunday 7th May to celebrate the coronation of King Charles III. If you wish to attend please fill in the form in this newsletter (or available from the stewards or Christine Holdstock).

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## **Table Top Sales – 1st April & 3<sup>rd</sup> June** **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 find just the item you have been looking for, including books, bric-a-brac, clothes, jigsaws and handcrafted greetings cards from only 50p.

*If you would like more information or to book a table, at a cost of £5 for church funds, please see Lynda at Church or phone 0779 9094472.*

**Please note there will not be a sale on 6<sup>th</sup> May.**

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Churches Together in East Leeds (previously called Churches Together in Leeds 15) are arranging a Picnic and Party "CELEBRATE THE KING" on **June 3<sup>rd</sup>**. This will be held on Seacroft Village Green from 12 noon to 3pm. The plan is to include a brass band and have games and activities. All will be welcome.

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

Friday **28<sup>th</sup> April** 2.00pm – Peter Harding will present an illustrated talk: “What’s in a Name? Stories from Stourton”  
Talks take place in the Methodist Church Hall Cross Gates and all are welcome. **Admission £2.00**

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### **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.

### **Ladies Friendship Group**

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

11/04/2023 Eric A. Jackson – ‘Votes for Women’

25/04/2023 – Jacki & Bob Lawrence – ‘The Barnbow Lassies’

### **Men’s Fellowship**

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

### **Wednesday Group**

This will re-start on May 3<sup>rd</sup> at 2.30pm

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

*From Emma Revie, CEO of Trussell Trust.*

"This winter has been incredibly challenging to those on the lowest incomes, and for many it has deepened the hardship they have already been facing for some time. The Trussell Trust welcomes some of the significant interventions announced by the Chancellor that will provide some additional support to people on the lowest income. We remain concerned that Social Security is not providing people with enough income to afford the essentials. This has been a high factor in our network having to distribute more than 7000 emergency food parcels a day this winter." *In February we delivered 12 baskets of food/toiletries (Weighing 161kg), to the Leeds South and East Distribution Centre. Thank you for your help and contributions.*

**If you would like to contribute food/toiletries for the foodbank please bring them to Church or contact John Best on 0113 2647283 or email [jvbest39@hotmail.com](mailto:jvbest39@hotmail.com) who will gladly collect.**

## **Information from Alison Lambert, Church Treasurer**

### **An Update on the Assessment**

At a recent meeting of the Circuit Treasurers the proposals for next year's assessments (2023/24) were discussed. Historically a fixed percentage increase has been implemented, however this review aimed to take into account the changes to church life that have taken place over the last 3 years and hopefully recognise the financial position each church is now in as a consequence.

The assessments have been calculated using each church's income, including lettings, from 2021/22, their membership as at October 2022 and average attendance in the same month. Changes to any church's assessment will be capped at a maximum increase of 8.5%, a maximum decrease of 5.5% with an overall increase of 6.5%. When Seacroft merged with Cross Gates last year their assessment for 2022/23 had already been included in the Circuit's budget so we have been paying their assessment using the funds we inherited from them. Using this new format will absorb Seacroft's membership into ours.

The aim is to use this format in the future and should be a fairer way of recognising each church's financial position, size of congregation and membership. As always, the Circuit is open to negotiation and recognises the significant financial strain on everyone at present.

As I mentioned in my last update, we are still having to use our Reserves to help pay our assessment.

### **Charitable Donation**

A big Thank You to everyone who gave so generously to DEC's Turkey/Syria earthquake appeal. £614.65 was raised, including £109.50 Gift Aid

### **Grateful Thanks**

We would like to thank Joan Chorley and family for helping our Church with very generous donations following the sad death of Trevor. Trevor kindly remembered Cross Gates Methodist Church with a gift in his Will and this was increased by a further donation from Joan. This generosity is very much appreciated and will slightly ease the Church's current challenging financial situation. The money will of course be put to very good use.

## **Memories of Harry Drake**

Harry Drake and I were both Leeds United season ticket holders together for many years. I sat next to Harry in the East Stand at Elland Road for 12 years. Every home match Harry always brought a flask of coffee for us to share which we had at half time, and I always bought us a Mars bar each. I will always remember when we use to get on the bus together from Leeds City Centre back home after the match. We always talked at great length about the match we had just being to, which usually included us complaining how poor the referee's performance was. When we got outside the Corn Exchange, he always telephoned Jean on his mobile phone to say that he was on his way home. I also remember Harry organising the church nights out Ten Pin Bowling, and he always invited people back to his house after for Tea, Coffee, biscuits and a chat. I have many special memories of Harry what a wonderful Christian gentleman and friend he was, he will be missed. **Neil Smith**

When Harry retired as Junior Church Secretary in 1988 I "volunteered" to take over from him. He presented me with an A4 ring binder containing a month by month guide to the role, all written out by hand. He showed me the ropes and was always willing to stand in for me if I wasn't at Church on a particular Sunday. Every quarter the Junior Church attendance registers were transferred into a master register and as there were so many in those days I used to go round to Harry's house and he would help me. This was always followed by coffee and shortbread biscuits, provided by Jean, and chats about football, cricket, rugby and holidays. I have so many more memories - cricket matches at the church picnic, his summer DIY list, the many social evenings he helped organise, the door duty and reading rotas, his love of Christmas. Harry, along with Jean, was at the heart of our Church Family. On the day he retired as Senior Steward many years ago I had called in at the vestry just as the rest of the stewards were regaling him with a chorus of "We're just mad about Harry" and I think that sums up nicely how we all felt about him. **Alison Lambert**

Sincere condolences to Jean Drake and Family on hearing of the news of their sad loss. I hold fond memories of Harry, a dear and lovely man. 'R.I.P. Harry.' **Myra Rowlands**

Just a few words in memory and love for Harry Drake. He was such a gentle giant and never had a bad word about anyone. Christmas Flings will have some living up to. Love and condolences to Jean and his family. **Pauline Brown**

Harry was always there with Jean at Church. He never missed apart from when on holiday. He would greet people with a smile, chatting and never a bad word about anybody. A thorough gentleman. He loved his sport, Leeds United and cricket. I was surprised when he spoke at one of the group meetings about his kind of music and the wide range of music he enjoyed. He will be greatly missed by us all. **Cynthia Best**

Sometimes it is hard being younger than many other Church members, as we see those we have known and loved over so many years pass away. Harry was always so full of life and love he will be greatly missed, but we were lucky to have him, and I have no doubt that he is now in heaven spreading happiness and volunteering his services where needed. **Tracy Dick**

I was sad to hear of the news about Harry but remembered with fondness what a kind and gentle man he was. I remember in the 1990s his leadership of social events with Spring Flings, Harvest socials and bowling nights. Not to mention the 1995 VE Day celebration with the jellies that wouldn't set in the warm summer of 95. Planning for these events involved a group of us, welcomed into Harry's front room with some tasty fresh treats baked by Jean, for us to enjoy whilst deciding what quizzes or barn dances we could think of that would fit the theme. There was much laughter at the planning and the event itself. Harry was a friendly soul who was committed to the church and the family around him. He always said a cheerful hello and as a family we always thought a lot of him and he will be missed. **Caroline Carr**

Harry was a lovely man; he was so kind and thoughtful. He sent me the Church Newsletter every month since I arrived in the Isle of Man. My thoughts and prayers are with Jean and their family. **Lesley Motley**

What a gentleman Harry was. I have never heard anyone say a wrong word about him, always a cheery greeting whenever you met him. He gave excellent talks to many of our Church Groups. I remember one when he said he was going to work on a grey, misty, cold and wet Monday morning and the young lady on reception said, Harry Drake if you tell me on your way to work you saw a lovely cobweb with glistening raindrops which looked a picture, I am not sure how I will reply! We are all going to miss him so much, but very grateful that he was our friend. We think of Jean at this time; my late husband used to lovingly call them Mr & Mrs Crossgates. **Beryl Gledhill**

**Congratulations:** Many congratulations and best wishes to Revd Helen White on her engagement to the Revd Paula Hunt.

**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:** If there are any people or situations you would like included in the prayers in worship, please let Helen know by Saturday morning, (having got permission from the individual to be named in our prayers). Please do contact Helen if you would like to receive details of worship via email or would like to have printed worship sheets delivered.

**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.

**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 Linda Booth (107 Woodland Road, Leeds, LS15 7DN) or 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) or phone 0113 264 3788 or write to 5 Manston Gardens, Leeds, LS15 8EY. Deadlines coming up: 16<sup>th</sup> April, 14<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*