



CROSSGATES METHODIST CHURCH Dec & Jan 2022/3 Newsletter

MINISTER: Rev Helen White

There is Room...

How many nativity plays have you seen, where a small child stands there, arms folded, declaring, 'There's no room, you can't come in!' It's a part of the Christmas story we're all familiar with - no room at the inn for Mary and Joseph and the soon to arrive baby. This Advent and Christmas we're focussing on who and what there *is* room for. There is room for you and me; for difference; for all of nature; for all ages and genders. There is room for people experiencing poverty, for God, for refugees and for revelation. In the Christmas story all those groups are represented. We see people who are different, like the magi. They were not part of the chosen people of Israel, yet there was room for them. Sheep, camels, donkeys, mice I guess all found room in the stable. Mary - young and female - found room at the centre of the story, in a world where older age and being male was important. The shepherds found room - in fact were invited in first, despite their poverty (or because of it?). There was room for God - even if it was amongst the animals rather than with the people in the house. At least it would have been warm. There was room in the story for refugees - Mary, Joseph and Jesus found themselves refugees from Herod - but that means refugees are part of the story. And there is room for revelation. All those involved in the events of the first Christmas, and what followed, discovered something of God. God's nature was revealed in how everything happened; in the very fact that God came to live amongst people, as one of us.

There is room for so much in the Christmas story. There is room for so many, including you and me, whoever you are. How will you make room

for God this Advent and Christmas? How will you make room for everyone else - those who are like us and those who are not; those who are poor and those who are rich; those who are refugees and those who have settled, safe places to live? God's welcome is infinitely large. God's story has space for everyone. Come and take your place in God's story and discover there is room for you, as well as me.

Blessings

Helen

Services in December 2022

4 th December	10.30am	Holy Communion	Revd Helen White
11 th December	10.30am		Revd David Goodall
18 th December	10.30am		Mr Grenville Jensen
18 th December	6pm	Carol Service at Colton Church	Revd Helen White
23 rd December	11am	Carols on Church steps	
24 th December	4pm	Children's Crib Service	Revd Helen White
24 th December	11.30pm	Holy Communion	Revd Helen White
25 th December	11am	All Age Worship	Revd Helen White

The communion stewards for December are Barbara Lloyd & John Blyth

Services in January 2023

(In the Church Hall)

1 st January		Worship at Home only	
8 th January	10.30am		Mr Ted Britton
15 th January	10.30am	Covenant Service	Revd Helen White
22 nd January	10.30am		Mr Paul Spencer
29 th January	10.30am		Mrs Naomi Polson

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



Christmas Fair

Saturday 26th November, 10:00am to 2:00pm

Christmas Cards - Gifts - Toys - Home-made Cakes -
Tombola

Refreshments

Proceeds shared between our Church and Meeting Point Café.

Christmas Concert – Saturday 3rd December

There will be a Christmas concert on Saturday 3rd December at 2:30pm in the Church. SERENDIPITY (Margaret Jowett and Kathy White) with “Christmas Greetings” – ‘Visit Christmas past and present with well-known songs, carols and readings.’

Come along for some Christmas Cheer.

Tickets are £5 and will be available from Christine Holdstock. *All welcome*

A Christmas Quiz

Hello Everyone, I copied this Christmas Quiz from the Church at Filey (with their permission) so please have a go, all the following are titles of Christmas Carols. I found it easy apart from No. 13! *Barbara Lloyd*

1	Relax happy fellows	9	Wooly persons late looking
2	Foreign king with a cold view	10	Number one carol
3	Listen to the heavenly singers	11	Red berry & climbing thing
4	Within the very cold season	12	Foreign royalty in triplicate
5	Appearance in middle of the night	13	Action view from sea to shore
6	Present yourselves true believers	14	Far eating receptacle for animals
7	The birth place	15	Beings from heavenly place
8	Quiet darkness		

Carols in the Park

Join the community for carols in Manston Park on Thursday 22nd December 6pm – 6.30pm. Community singing followed by mulled wine and mince pies. (organised by Connecting Crossgates)



Christmas Greetings

Wishing you the peace, love and joy of the Christ child this Christmas. **Helen White**

A very Happy Christmas and a Healthy and Happy New Year. Love from **Barbara and Michael Lloyd**.

Love and best wishes at this special time and for the coming year. **Beryl Gledhill**

Wishing everyone a peaceful Christmas and a happy and healthy 2023. **Tracy, Aleck and Jessica Dick**

Wishing all our friends at Cross Gates a very Happy and Peaceful Christmas and New Year. **Margaret and Geoff Yapp**

Christmas greetings to all and a happy and healthy new year. With love and best wishes, **Joan and Trevor Chorley**

June Holliday would like to wish everyone a very Happy Christmas and a healthy and prosperous New year especially... Reverend Helen White, stewards...Barbara Lloyd, Cedric and Linda Robinson Cynthia and John Best..all Holy communion stewards...all readers, Tracy Dick, (magazine editor) Amanda Brow. All those new to the church. Sorry I can't remember all your names yet of the top of my head (but you know who you all are) and may the spirit of Christmas forever shine in your hearts always.

Dorothy and Alan Tate wish the Church family a happy Christmas and a healthy New Year.

To all our Church family, a very happy and blessed Christmas. We love you all. God bless you. **Jean and Harry Drake.**

Christmas greetings and a very happy New Year from **Margaret Rhodes.**

Carol and John Smith would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy and Peaceful New Year. Xx

John and Cynthia send Christmas Greetings to all their Church family and wish God's blessing for a Healthy and Peaceful 2023.

Wishing everyone a happy Christmas and a peaceful 2023. **Cedric and Lynda.**

Denise Durkin and family would like to wish all the Church family a very merry Christmas and a wonderful new year.

Wishing all our Church family and friends a very Happy and Peaceful Christmas. Love **Jane and Holly.** X

Wishing the Church family and a very Happy Christmas and Healthy New Year. Love from **Shirley Clough.**

To my friends at Church, I wish you all a happy and peaceful Christmas and God to be with you in the coming year. **Margaret Wray.**

Roy and Georgina Cressey wish all the Church family a very happy Christmas, and wish everyone a bright and prosperous New Year.

Best wishes to all the Church Family, for a happy Christmas and a healthy and prosperous New Year. **Keith and Deborah.**

Pam Wilcox sends Christmas blessings to everybody.

Amanda Brow sends her best wishes and blessings for Christmas and the New Year.

Wishing everyone a happy and healthy Christmas, with best wishes for the new year from **Christine and Richard Holdstock.**

(Please forgive any errors or omissions in the greetings)

Thank You.....

.....to all those who work so hard to keep our Church running smoothly. It takes a team to achieve so much and we are all very grateful to those who undertake tasks, big and small.

Church Flowers

The flowers for the Remembrance Sunday service were kindly donated by Christine Holdstock, whilst on 20th November Denise Durkin donated flowers in memory of Tina Hainsworth. Flowers for the 4th December were donated by Keith and Deborah Tingle in memory of Jean. Christmas flowers will be donated by Roy & Georgina Cressey in memory of family past and present, some being lost over the Christmas and New Year period.

Georgina and Barbara thank all those who have given donations for flowers over the last year. It has been much appreciated by the Church congregation.

Leeds South & East Foodbank (Trussell Trust) **helping local people in crisis**

In October your Church was able to deliver 10 baskets of food and toiletries - weighing 156Kg - to the Trussell Trust Leeds South & East Distribution Centre.

If you are able to donate, there is a basket in the Galilee or contact John Best email jvbest39@hotmail.com who will gladly collect from you.

How nice it would be if clients found a treat in their 3 day food parcel for the Christmas period. Could you donate an extra bar of chocolate or bag of sweets?

Charitable Donations

Many thanks to everyone who gave so generously to DEC's **Pakistan Floods Appeal**. £446.26 was raised including £80.00 in Gift Aid. In their acknowledgement letter DEC say that thanks to your generosity they have been able to provide life-saving aid to people in Pakistan, helping

them to provide emergency aid such as clean water, food, emergency shelter and health assistance.

Cross Gates & District Good Neighbours' Scheme thanked us for our £100 donation. This year they will use the funds towards their Christmas party. This way the donation will reach and support as many people as possible and give everybody something to look forward to.

Church Finances

Many of you will be aware that we are trying to find ways of cutting costs and making savings due to the impact the COVID pandemic has had on the Church's financial situation. There are two areas that have been identified so far.

If you are currently using offertory envelopes you will by now have received a letter from Amanda Brow, Stewardship Recorder, outlining the option to change your regular giving from weekly to monthly. This would reduce the number of envelopes we need to order per person from 52 to 12, which will not only save money but will also help save the environment by reducing wastage of envelopes.

Every year we make budgeted payments to various charities both locally and within The Methodist Church. For many years the amounts of these donations have remained the same and it was only during the first few months of the pandemic that we realised a review was needed as our income fell. We have continued to review the budgeted payments each September at the Finance & Property meeting with any changes being approved by the Church Council.

The recent review resulted in further reductions and even suspension of some donations. The Church Council agreed that our focus should be on more local charities such as Crossgates Good Neighbours, Seacroft Friends & Neighbours, Meeting Point and St George's Crypt. Donations to Christian Aid, the Bible society and Caring for Life have been suspended for now. We will still raise funds at Christmas for St Gemma's Hospice and Action for Children but will not be giving additional donations this year. The hardest decision was to reduce our donations to World Missions, Mission in Britain and Methodist Women in Britain. We have always generously supported these organisations in the past but at the moment it is just not possible. The budgeted payments will continue to be reviewed annually by the Finance & Property Committee and Church Council.

Our income has steadily reduced over the last 2 ½ years and we are now using our Reserves to make sure our assessment can be met each quarter. The savings we have identified so far will not solve our financial situation but will help reduce some of our costs.

I am grateful for your continued financial support of our Church. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to have a word with me.

Alison Lambert, Church Treasurer

Condolences: Please remember in your thoughts and prayers the family and friends of Eric Varley who has sadly died.

Free phone service to hear prayers and news from the Methodist Church:

Listen to a prayer: 0808 281 2514 and Listen to news: 0808 281 2478
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 me 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.

Table Top Sales – 4th February & 4th March: If you would like more information or to book a table, at a cost of £5 for Church funds, please contact Lynda at Church or phone 0779 9094472.

East Leeds History & Archaeology Society: Methodist Church Hall' Friday 27th January 2023, 2.00pm - Illustrated talk by Jacki & Bob Lawrence: 'Smeaton of Austhorpe' Admission £2.00. All welcome

Your Financial Contributions: Thank you to all those who have continued to contribute to the Church's running costs. If you do not attend Church, please continue sending them to Linda Booth or to the Church's address. *Please note cheques are being paid into the bank less frequently now so do not be concerned.*

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 Deadlines coming up: January 23rd 2023, February 20th.

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