



CROSSGATES METHODIST CHURCH Newsletter February 2025

MINISTER: Rev George Bailey (until 26/3/25)

February Services

2 February – 10.30am	Holy Communion	Rev Joyce Nicholson
2 February – 4pm	Circuit Service	At Oakwood
9 February – 10.30am		Local Arrangements
16 February – 10.30am	All Age Worship	Mr Andy Birkett
23 February – 10.30am		Mr John Clay

Communion Stewards for February are Denise Durkin & Keith Westbrook.
Services in the coldest months – January to March - will be taking place in the Wesley Room rather than the Church itself. This is to save money on heating costs whilst ensuring we all stay warm.

World Day of Prayer Service

This year's World Day of Prayer service will take place on Friday 7th March, 2pm at Colton Methodist Church. It has been prepared by Christian women from the Cook Islands. Everyone is invited to attend.

Church Annual General Meeting

This will take place on Sunday 6th April, after morning service. Everyone is most welcome to attend.

Church Flowers

There was a change to the donations for the Christmas flowers. Pauline Brown donated in remembrance of her husband and son instead of June Holliday as stated in the last newsletter. Flowers on the 19th January were donated by Alison for her and a friend's birthdays. I will continue to do flowers for this year along with Barbara Leeming. Donations will continue to be gratefully received as before. Barbara and Georgina wish everyone a very happy, healthy and peaceful New Year. Contact either Barbara or Georgina if you would like Church flowers to be arranged for a special reason.

A Message from our Senior Steward

Our new Tuesday session in the Church Hall, 9.30 to 1 pm, offers a warm, welcoming space to anyone who wants to come. The first session was on 7th January and 10 people attended despite the snow and ice. We are offering assorted hot drinks, toasted teacakes, crumpets, soup and a roll. Aleck Dick has offered to make homemade soup for us and that went down particularly well. This new 'Welcome Space' session is in addition to Monday morning coffee morning, Tots and Guests on Monday afternoon (as long as every adult brings a pre-school child) and the repair café every third Saturday of the month. A lady from the Council has offered to attend some sessions to offer advice to anyone who needs it. It is early days, but we hope this will be a very well used service. The Tuesday session will continue until the end of March.

As many of you will know, the 'Four Square Gospel Church' are going to share our Church Building. Quite a few of them joined our service on the 29th December. They will start holding a service in the church every Sunday at 12.30 pm. In the coming weeks, they will be using our building several times a week at differing times of the day. We will still be able to use the building whenever we need it by giving them notice. Initially I felt a bit despondent, as if it was a first step to losing our Church, but something the preacher said this morning made me think differently, she said we should rejoice that another Christian Church is using our (under-used) building to glorify God.... And I think she is right.

Love and prayers, Barbara.

Thank You - It was really wonderful to walk into the hall on the day of the Christmas Fair and see such a busy, happy atmosphere with so many stalls and lovely things to buy. Special thanks to everyone who had a hand in organising the event and those who worked so hard on the day. I thoroughly enjoyed it. ***Beryl Gledhill.***

Table Top Sales - 1st February & 1st March 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 just find 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 on 0779904472.

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.

Warm Space Tuesdays

The Church Hall is now open every Tuesday morning (9.30am to 1pm) in January, February and March to provide a warm and welcoming space for all. Hot drinks, snacks and homemade soup are being offered in return for a small donation.

Ladies Friendship Group

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

28/01/25 – Leeds in the Second World War (Jacki & Bob Lawrence)

11/02/25 – Charity Auction

25/02/25 – A musical afternoon with Concordia

Men's Fellowship Group

Meetings are held at 2pm in the Wesley Room on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month. All welcome

04/02/25 – Whistle stop tour of England & Wales, Part 1 (Roy Cressey)

18/02/25 – Cricket Match (Alan Tate)

04/03/25 – End of Term meal

18/03/25 – AGM

East Leeds History & Archaeology Society

Friday 30th January 2025

'Keeping it all together – The conservation challenges facing historic houses.'
– by Ian Fraser

Friday 28rd February 2025

'The Aire & Calder Navigation' – an illustrated talk by Mr David Taylor
Talks take place in the Methodist Church Hall Cross Gates and all are welcome.

Admission £2.00 including refreshments

Throwback to February 1969, Throwback to Feb 1969

While Rev Becki is on sabbatical we will look back at the pieces Ministers wrote in the 60s, 70s and 80s for the newsletters of the time. We will also include some of the other newsletter content from the same edition. How much has changed and how much remains the same?

Dear Friends

A month without a car has taught me that nothing is indispensable, that walking is a good though dreary exercise, that bus stops are cold places, and some bus services less reliable than trip schedules to the moon! Nevertheless, I HAVE managed. But how? Well, quite a few calls have been left unmade, some important duties neglected, and somehow, I found a cold that put me out of commission altogether for a few days.

And I have learned afresh that if 'things' are dispensable, then people are too. We CAN be done without, but again....and how? Work doesn't get done, work is done hurriedly by those trying to do too much, opportunities are missed; and nothing, it seems to me, suffers more than the Church because of this kind of thing. Its tasks and its witness are so easily set aside. The old tag comes to mind which says something like this: "The CH__CH is incomplete unless _UR_ in it" How true this is, and although Cross Gates is a hive of activity how much more effective our work could be if everyone accepted some task and offered some service.

I am pleased to report that Mr & Mrs Wilkinson have got the Junior Club going again; that new volunteers in Mrs Chambers, Mrs Searle, Sheila Morrell and Hilary Stephenson have enabled us to have two Brownie Packs; that a number of ladies helping in turn with the canteen have encouraged our Youth Club work; and that new teachers are being recruited into Junior Church. But there are still duties of all kinds to be done - one place where help is needed NOW is in the Youth Club which meets on Wednesday evenings and where our Youth Club Leader, Bob Newell, would be very grateful for some men to assist him.

If you can help with any task in the church or if you know of anyone too shy to offer but with an unused talent, please let me know. We CAN be done without, we can hide our light under a bushel, we can sit at ease, we can always let somebody else, but if we do there is some task being left undone, and some opportunity unfulfilled And if we are too old or infirm ourselves to bring any practical help then we can remember the work, and the workers, in our prayers, and show to them our understanding and encouragement.....

Throwback to February 1969, Throwback to Feb 1969

Throwback to February 1969, Throwback to Feb 1969

I commend the Good Neighbours scheme, announced elsewhere, to you and ask for your attendance on Wednesday night next in the Arndale Centre. This is a 'People Next Door' inspired project which will take in all the churches in co-operative enterprise, and those too who want to help who have no church allegiance at all.

Yours sincerely, Rev John P. Monkhouse

The February 1969 newsletter also included:

- An update on the Blue Peter Christmas Appeal: old woollens had been collected to support the work of Christian Aid and the World Council of Churches' Relief Agency who were providing help to West Africa.
- The members of Bright Hour had sent a small gift and Christmas card to each of the 80 patients in Wharfe Grange Home.
- The gifts received at Toy Service were given to the Marguerite Hepton hospital at Thorp Arch and a party of young people from our Church made a 'rewarding' visit to the hospital.
- There had been a week of prayer for Christian Unity. This had culminated with a united service of Evensong at Manston Parish Church.
- The Senior Wives Group had raised money for the Missions to Deep Sea Fishermen and planned to make this an annual event. Anyone who wished to help in any way was asked to contact Mrs Leeming.
- Good Neighbours was being launched at a public meeting in the Arndale Centre.

This prayer was also in the 1969 newsletter: Lord, I have time

All men complain that they haven't enough time. It's because they look at their lives from too human a point of view. There's always time to do what God wants us to do, but we must put ourselves completely into each moment that he offers us.

Lord, I have time, I have plenty of time,

All the time that you give me,

The years of my life, the days of my years, the hours of my days,

They are all mine,

Mine to fill, quietly, calmly,

Mine to fill completely, up to the brim,

To offer them to you.

I am not asking you, Lord, for time to do this and then that,

But your grace to do conscientiously, in the time that you give me,

what you want me to do. Amen.


(Michel Quoist)

Throwback to February 1969, Throwback to Feb 1969


A Visit to the Bethesda Methodist Church in Roseau, the capital of the island of Dominica

While on holiday in the Caribbean this Christmas I was lucky enough to come across the Methodist Church on the island of Dominica, while exploring the capital Roseau. It was Sunday morning, and the congregation warmly welcomed my husband and I into their beautiful Chapel. The ladies of the congregation looked amazing in their 'Sunday best' and the singing, led by an enthusiastic choir was excellent. We were unable to stay for the whole service, but the first half followed the familiar pattern we would all recognise and there is something wonderful about imagining people all over the world spending their Sunday mornings as we do. Some of the challenges we face as a Church were replicated here – not many children were present but perhaps they enjoyed Junior Church elsewhere? We worry about keeping warm at this time of year but in Dominica everyone was attempting to remain cool in the heat. We photographed this brief history of the Church, seen below.

Tracy & Aleck Dick



Methodist Church



Rough 1920s sketch of the Bethesda Methodist Chapel.

1787 • First Methodist missionary, Dr Thomas Coke arrived.

• It was originally a dwelling house.


1800 • The lot where the church is now was initially leased to Catholics who later converted to Wesleyan Methodism.

• Construction of the church began.

1840s • There was tension between the Catholics and Methodists due to the close proximity of the churches, which led to riots during the 1840s.

1893 • It was completed with the construction of the steeple.

• Close by is Wesley High School, a Methodist High School for girls.



This 1902 photograph of Castle Street in Roseau, is looking west towards the sea and the junction of Church Street. This may have been a common view for parishioners exiting the Methodist Church.

This would have been one of the routes used to get to the Roseau Market and the Bayfront.

Leeds South & East Foodbank (Trussell Trust)

In December our Church donated 10 baskets of food and toiletries to the Leeds South & East Trussell Trust distribution centre, weighing 140kg. The Centre supplies 10 local food banks in Leeds South & East, with a further centre supplying to banks in Leeds North & West.

The foodbank particularly needs donations of tinned tomatoes, soup, custard, UHT milk and tea/coffee at the moment.

Essential facts:

- In the last two years the number of people relying on Leeds South & East Foodbank for a food parcel has increased by **54%**.
- The food banks supported **16,937** local people with emergency food in the year 2023/4.
- **40%** of the people supported in Leeds were **children**.

Thank you for standing alongside people in their hardest moments and for refusing to look away when so many people can't afford to eat, keep warm or pay their bills.

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

Church Christmas Fair

Thank you to all the helpers and supporters of the Christmas Fair. It was an incredible joint effort from everyone concerned. Whether you ran a stall, donated items to sell or raffle, helped with the publicity, set up or cleaned up the Hall, cooked the delicious food and importantly spent generously we really are very grateful. It was lovely to see so many people on the day both from our Church and from the local community.

Many thanks from Tracy, Caroline and Elizabeth

The total raised at the Christmas Fayre was an amazing **£1208.90**. So that's £604.45 each for the day to day running costs of Church and the building fund. The total for the building fund now stands at £3394.76.

Alison Lambert, Church Treasurer

And finally – there is an unclaimed raffle prize, **number 204**. Please contact Tracy Dick if you (or anyone you know) has the winning ticket.

Condolences: to the family and friends of Margaret Barnett, Mavis Camp and Keith Tingle who will all be sadly missed.

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.

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: 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:

02/02/25 – Georgina Cressey & Neil Smith

09/02/25 – Carol Smith & June Holliday

16/02/25 – David Barrett & Neil Smith

23/02/25 – 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 (contact details below).

Newsletter: Please email contributions for the Newsletter to Tracy Dick tracylouisedick@gmail.com Deadlines coming up: Sunday 16th February, Sunday 16th March.

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