



**CROSSGATES  
METHODIST  
CHURCH**  
**Newsletter**  
**February 2024**

MINISTER: Rev Becki Stennett

**Covenant and Clay**

As we get stuck in to a new year, Methodists in many places will have been saying the very special Covenant prayer together. It's a prayer in which we offer ourselves to God, in response to God's faithfulness to us, and we recommit to following where God will lead us in the months ahead.

The prayer itself isn't easy to pray, but the bit that follows is probably harder, as we try to put into practise those good things we've prayed about.

It was a real privilege for me in January to explore the Covenant prayer and an image from the biblical prophet Jeremiah of God being like a potter, with us being clay, with a group of families.

After we heard the Bible story, we set to creating some things out of clay for ourselves, and together talking about what we think it means that God is the potter and we like clay.

Since I'm an avid fan of The Great Pottery Throw Down, I greeted the task with relish! But, sadly, however many hours I may have spent watching amateur potters creating beautiful things, I do not seem to have magically gained the talent required to make something I could feel proud of from the raw clay!

But this isn't a surprise is it? We know that if we're going to see change in something, be it a slab of clay or the world we live in, we have to work at

it, work with it, and spend time and energy getting involved, putting our hands to the task.

In the same way, we must, I think, be ready to allow God to be hands-on with us. Perhaps sometimes we're like that fresh cut lump of clay that resists being moulded, but holding all manner of unexplored potential until God moulds us and shapes us into all we're called to be.

This year, I wonder what you are being called to get hands on with and stuck into?

I wonder how God is waiting to work with you? **Rev Becki**

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### **February Services**

4 February – 10.30am		Mr Grenville Jensen
4 February – 4pm	Circuit Service	At Barwick
11 February – 10.30am		Local Arrangements
14 <sup>th</sup> February – 7.30pm	Holy Communion Ash Wednesday	Rev. Norma Davey
18 February – 10.30am	Holy Communion	Rev. Becki Stennett
25 February – 10.30am		Mr John Summerwill

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

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### **World Day of Prayer Service**

The Churches Together in East Leeds World Day of Prayer Service for 2024 will be held at 2 pm on **Friday 1st March** at St Gregory's Church Swarcliffe, Swarcliffe Drive, Leeds, LS14 5LB.

The organisers emphasise that, though this is an ecumenical international prayer movement led by women, the services are for ALL, so everyone is welcome.

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### **Church Flowers**

The flowers in Church over Christmas lasted well into January. Flowers on Sunday 14th January were from **Alison Lambert in memory of birthdays.**

Georgina will continue to do the flowers this year with the help of Barbara Leeming. Anyone wanting flowers arranged in Church please contact either Georgina Cressey or Barbara as before. Donations are appreciated.

## **A Message from our Senior Steward**

Happy New Year everyone from the stewards. Cedric John and I are very pleased to report that we now have another Vestry Steward. Neil Smith returned to the vestry this week and we give him a very warm welcome. We all cleared the Stewards room in the cellar last week and have a large pile of items earmarked for the tip. If you know of anything that was in this room (or in the cellar generally) that you want to keep, please let me know. The only thing is you may have to keep it at home! Space is at a premium now.

We are now holding Sunday worship in the Church Hall as last year and it is going well. There are a large number of hymn books in the galilee that we no longer need, and we are currently deciding what to do with them. We will check every book to see if there is a name in it and return it to you if possible. Anyone who would like any of the old hymn books please feel free to take one or let me know and I will get them to you.

I wish you all a happy, healthy and peaceful new year.

***Love and prayers, Barbara.***

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## **Church Matters**

Thank you to everyone who attended the meeting on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> January and for your very helpful contributions and thoughts on the long-term Circuit strategy.

## **Church Annual General Meeting**

This will take place on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> March, after morning service. Everyone is most welcome to attend.

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## **Leeds South & East Foodbank (Trussell Trust)**

Thank you so much for your donations of food and money.

More people than ever are being driven to food banks and the sharp increase in people needing help is outstripping food donations. The foodbank particularly needs: cooking sauces, dilute/long life juice, biscuits, UHT milk, teabags, coffee, tinned fruit, tinned tomatoes, custard.

**If you would like to contribute food/toiletries please contact John Best, email [jvbest39@hotmail.com](mailto:jvbest39@hotmail.com) who will gladly collect.**

## **Table Top Sales - 3rd February & 2nd March**

### **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 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 Lynda at Church or phone 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.

### **Ladies Friendship Group**

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

13/02/2024	Charity Auction and Bingo
27/02/2024	Whistle-Stop tour of England and Wales, part 2 – Roy Cressey

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

### **Friday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2024**

Jacki and Bob Lawrence will deliver an illustrated talk 'Blue Plaques of Leeds'.

### **Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2024**

Dr Christine Holdstock will deliver an illustrated talk 'The Stories of the People named on the Methodist Church First World War Memorial'.

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

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## **Christmas Fair**

Thank you to all the helpers and supporters at the Christmas Fair. We raised just over £800 which was split equally between Church and Leeds Area Riding for the Disabled. It was lovely to see so many people on the day. ***Thanks from Lynda, Elizabeth and Graeme.***

*Leeds Area Riding for the Disabled posted the following online: 'We would like to say a massive thank you to Liz and Lawrence Hartley. They have supported our little group for many years, their daughter Rachel still rides with us when she can. Following a Christmas Fair at Cross Gates*

Methodist Church we have received a cheque for an amazing £403.70. Thank you very much'.

## **Connexional Funds**

***There are several funds held at connexional level. Here we have explained some more.***

The Fund for the Support of Presbyters and Deacons (FSPD) is the main benevolent fund held at the connexional level. The fund aims to support supernumeraries; surviving spouses/partners of deceased ministers, and active ministers (including students and probationers) in financial difficulty or needing help due to illness or incapacity with their return to work. Whilst the fund has benefitted from very generous support in the past, the calls on this fund increase year on year. The Connexional Allowances Committee that administers the fund is very grateful for all donations received to this, and the other benevolent funds they oversee.

The Methodist Medical Benevolent Fund (MMBF) is to assist ministers, lay employees and their dependants cover costs of health-related (medical) services. These purposes can also be met from the FSPD (with the exception of support to lay employees) and in practice, this fund typically supports counselling and recuperative breaks. Since 2022 the MMBF has also started providing support to helps ministers' children in need (often as adults themselves), in particular because of incapacity or disability, mental or physical, temporary or ongoing. These needs were previously met from the Methodist Ministers' Children's Relief Association. However, as that fund became fully depleted and income mostly from the traditional collections at District Synods reduced, the MMBF has taken over funding these grants.

Other benevolent funds exist that are funded from historic investments specifically to support the educational needs of minsters' children, and to support members of the Methodist Diaconal Order.

The Fund for Training helps fund the provision of initial and further training for presbyters, deacons, lay employees and other lay persons. It also provides grants for students and training institutions.

The Fund for Property exists to support the work of the trustees of Methodist property including grants and loans for property purposes. Historically, grants were made for property projects across the connexion. However, with dwindling funds available and changes to the approach to grant giving, this fund is now overseen by the Property Development



Committee. It provides grants to managing trustees for feasibility studies in the initial phases of property projects.

### **Spotlight on..... Keith Tingle**

How do you condense 90 years into one short article? Well, I've tried so for anyone interested this is the life of Keith Tingle in 760 words.

I'm a Leeds lad born and bred. A Yorkshire man through and through. Life started in 1934 when I was born in Hunslet to parents Alice and Clifford. My mother was a dressmaker whilst my father worked as a twister in a local woollen mill and we lived in the mill cottages with my eldest sister Brenda and then my younger sisters Evelyn and Dianne before moving to Lower Wortley.

They were happy times, attending Sunday School at Whingate Methodist Church, joining in with their many social events, playing cricket for the church, and the highlight always our annual family holiday to the East Coast. I was also a member of the Scouts and remember one camp, when our usual van driver was not available at the last minute so, not to be deterred, we pushed all the equipment on a handcart from Whingate Junction to Harewood Farm.

As I became older I took a Saturday job as a butchers boy, cycling round in all weathers with a big basket on my bike delivering meat. Perhaps it was all this cycling that prompted me and a friend to get on our bikes and visit his Auntie in Liverpool.

In 1947 my Uncle Arthur took me by train to Wembley to see Leeds play Bradford Northern in the Rugby League Challenge Cup final.

Unfortunately Leeds lost 4-8 but that didn't stop me from becoming a life long Leeds fan and a season ticket holder for many, many years.

Despite the many hours I had spent as a child under the dining table, sat in a box practising to be a train driver, after leaving school I joined the accounts department at Soapy Joes on Whitehall Road and attended night school to pass my accountancy exams.

My 2 years National Service was spent in the RAF where I was stationed in Germany working in air traffic control.

My sister Evelyn had begun working for the Yorkshire Electricity Board and she took me to one of their dances where she introduced me to a friend of hers, Jean. As they say, the rest is history. We married in 1957 and moved into a house in Knightsway where I have lived ever since.

The 60's blessed us with 2 beautiful daughters Deborah and Beverley and they attended Sunday School at Crossgates Methodist Church where Jean and I had started to worship.

In the 70's I moved with Soapy Joe's, now Elida Gibbs, to their new home on the Coal Road in Seacroft before moving on to work at Europower Hydraulics in Market Weighton. We considered moving house but, Jean and I had become heavily involved in the life of the church and the girls were both busy with their activities and friends, so I decided to give commuting a try. It can't have been too bad as I stayed there until I retired in 1992. In 1981 I was seconded to a company in Winston Salem, North Carolina for a year which was an amazing experience.

Over the years I have held a variety of roles at Church from treasurer, gift aid secretary, stewardship recorder, circuit finance steward and treasurer, a member of the counting team and heating rota to property odd job man and DIY specialist.

When the Church Rambling Club started, I would say that brought a new lease of life to Jean and myself. We had always enjoyed an afternoon on Armscliffe Crag or Otley Chevin with the girls but now we had got the walking bug! Saturdays were made for waterproofs and muddy boots, rucksacks and sandwiches visiting some wonderful places and making great friendships along the way.

The 90's heralded the growth of our family when Jean and I became the proud grandparents of five gorgeous girls. After a lifetime surrounded by women, 3 sisters, 2 daughters and 5 granddaughters my first great grandchild arrived last August, and yes, she was a delightful baby girl. After retiring I used some of my spare time to take up another hobby, singing. I have sung with West Ardsley, Middleton and then Leeds Male Voice Choirs.

Sadly I ended up spending several years caring for Jean after her dementia diagnosis and then my strokes put an end to any involvement in my remaining church roles however I am grateful that I can still attend services regularly.

Life may have slowed down but as I sit here on my 90<sup>th</sup> birthday and look back and ponder, I am so grateful for the many wonderful people who have passed through my life. You know who you are!

*(We all wish Keith a very happy 90<sup>th</sup> birthday)*

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### **A Prayer**

Gracious God, our world is not as you would have it.  
Our systems, our leaders and we ourselves fall short of your glory.  
Where potential is not fulfilled, may your kingdom come;  
may all creation have life and have it in all abundance.  
Knowing our world is not as you would have it,

may we hear your invitation to be part of the change and build your Church into a beacon of justice and joy.

*Amen*

### **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.

**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.

### **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 Linda Booth 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 (contact details below).

**Newsletter:** Please email contributions for the Newsletter to Tracy Dick [tracylouisedick@gmail.com](mailto:tracylouisedick@gmail.com) Deadlines coming up: Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> March, Sunday 21st April.

#### **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*