



CROSS GATES METHODIST CHURCH Newsletter March 2026

MINISTER: Rev Janet Titterton

What is in a Name?

Dear Friends,

I've been asked to conduct my first baptism since moving to Leeds, and whenever I am asked to conduct a baptism, it sets me thinking about names. I have always hated my name – Janet. It's very plain and sensible, and I wish I was called something else. Also, my parents thought that middle names were "fancy" so they didn't give me one. I wonder whether you like the name your parents gave to you?

Names go in fashions, don't they? I was one of the last of the Janets, most people called Janet are a bit older than I am. When we had our first son we called him James, but we didn't know then that it was the most popular name for baby boys that year. So, he had 5 friends at university, all called James, and another 6 friends who have James as a middle name.

Jesus was a fashionable name at the time he was born. There were hundreds of people called Jesus around at the time, and it was really not a special name at all. But now we say it is the name that is above every name, the name that has power to save. There is no other name given to humankind by which we might be saved.

Jesus is a precious name, the sweetest name on earth. How can this be, if it was nothing special?

Well, the name might be nothing special, but the person is. Jesus was given the name that is higher than all names because of the kind of person he was, because of the things that he did. God gave him that special name because he was obedient, humble, and gentle.

Which has led me to come to the conclusion that it doesn't matter in the least what my name is, or what your name is. It's just a label. The name

doesn't matter. What matters is what people see in you. If people call you "that kind lady, that friendly man, that helpful person," then that is good. It is good to know that people think well of you. But if they call you "that grumpy old goat, the mean old skinflint, the moaning Minnie" then you should be worried. Because we all call ourselves "Christian" and we all call ourselves children of God. Other people should see Jesus when they look at us. They should see in us the beauty of Jesus and they should be able to tell that he is in our hearts, that he is in our lives and that he walks and talks with us every day.

I wonder what name people give to us when we are not around to hear them?

With my best wishes, love and prayers, Rev Janet

March Services

1 March – 10.30am	Holy Communion	Rev Janet Titterton
8 March – 10.30am		Mr Ted Britton
15 March – 10.30am		Mr Grenville Jensen
22 March – 10.30am		Rev Tanya Short
29 March – 10.30am	Palm Sunday	<i>At Colton</i>

Communion Stewards for March are Carol Smith & David Barrett

Church Flowers

Flowers on the 8th & 9th February were arranged in memory of the late **Jean Drake**, a valued and much-loved member of our Church.

Jennie Reeves sponsored flowers for Sunday 22nd February in memory of her **Mum**. Thanks go to **Beryl Gledhill** for a donation to be used when ever needed.

Barbara and Georgina thank everyone for their donations.

If you would like flowers arranged in memory of a loved one or to celebrate an occasion such as an anniversary, please contact Georgina or Barbara.

A Message from our Senior Steward

New Years greetings to everyone.

Thank you to everyone for the prayers, cards and messages of condolence I have received since Michael died in December. The support I have received has been incalculable.

I have no longer got a landline;

My email address remains the same.

Kind regards, Barbara Lloyd.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER
A service for everyone!

Friday 6 March

I will give you rest, come

Nigeria 2026

Churches Together in East Leeds
World Day of Prayer Service 2026

2 pm on Friday 6th March

at

St. Mary's Church, Whitkirk

Selby Rd, Whitkirk, Leeds LS15 0AA

Everyone is welcome.



INFORMED PRAYER PRAYERFUL ACTION
24-7 365 Days a year Prayer movement Ecumenical International Women-led
wwdp.org.uk Registered Charity Number 233242

Table Top Sales – 7th March & 4th April

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 John Smith or phone 0779904472. *Come along and pick up a bargain!*

Ladies Friendship Group

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

24/02/26 – ‘Montague Burton, Tailor of Taste’ – Jacki & Bob Lawrence

10/03/26 – ‘An afternoon with John Freer’ (from telegram boy to flower show judge)

24/03/26 – ‘Cross Gates Then & Now’ – Bill Ineson

Men’s Fellowship Group

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

03/03/26 – End of Term meal

17/03/26 – AGM

Spotlight on.....Shirley Clough

I was born in August 1936 at Brook Farm in Dargate, near Hernhill, Kent. I moved to Bristol with my family as a baby and then returned to Kent where my brother Ray was born and the year the war started, 1939. We moved to Surrey just after my brother Ray was born as my father was working as a civil engineer. My father was then sent to work in Port Sunlight, Liverpool and that is where I started school. My father was then sent to work at the open cast mine in Temple Newsam. As the bombing was so bad in Liverpool, we soon went to Leeds to join my father. In Leeds I lived in 7 different houses and areas and attended 4 different schools before going to High School at Stainbeck Secondary Modern for Girls where I was very happy.

I left school at 15 and went to work at Marlbeck House tailoring. I didn’t like it all and left after a year. I then worked at a small children’s clothes shop on Street Lane, Rounday before leaving at age 21 to work at Schofields.

I enjoyed hiking in the Yorkshire Dales, horse riding and ball room dancing at D Grey Firth in Leeds. I liked to keep fit and I went to the Women’s League of Health and Beauty with my mother.

I met Roy Clough at the New Inn at Newthorpe in 1960 when I was there with my parents and a friend. Roy and I married in 1962 and moved to Crossgates. Roy had attended Seacroft Methodist Chapel all his life and we joined Crossgates Methodist Chapel together.

Fiona, my elder daughter was born in 1965, and I took her to Stanks Chapel, near to our house, for Sunday School. My younger daughter was born in 1968, and we kept attending Stanks Chapel until the girls joined brownies at Crossgates Methodist and attended the parade services and Sunday School there.

In Crossgates I was an active member of The Ladies Club at Pendas Way Community Centre, and we put on annual shows. I went to keep fit

at St Mary's and Roy and I loved attending local dances with friends. We also enjoyed lots of wonderful holidays together and went as far as Australia and New Zealand but also loved going to Bridlington, Scarborough and Filey.

I have lived in my bungalow for 64 very happy years seeing my children grow up. I have four grandchildren and they are all grown up and very happy.

I still like to spend time doing craft and gardening and I enjoy being part of Good Neighbours and the Methodist Church family. **Shirley Clough**

And another thing..... In writing about my life, I did say I had a poor School Certificate, but I omitted two very happy times – the birth of our two granddaughters now aged 27 and 30. **Beryl Gledhill**

If you would like to join in and offer a few words about your life to feature in future newsletters, please send them to Tracy Dick (see the back page for contact details)

Charitable Donation

A big **Thank You** to everyone who gave so generously to Action for Children over the Christmas season.

£78.75 was raised in lieu of Christmas cards, £101.29 from singing carols on the Church steps and £87.50 donated at the Christmas services. A total of £292.54 was raised including £11.25 Gift Aid and a personal donation of £25.00.

Your continued support for this worthy cause is greatly appreciated.
Alison Lambert, Church Treasurer



Dear All at Cross Gates Methodist Church

On behalf of all of us at Leeds South & East Foodbank, I would like to thank you and all your congregation for donating food to us over the last

year, 2025. Your generous donations of 1,507.6 kg has enabled us to provide 3,588 meals. This will make a big difference to local people in crisis.

Yours sincerely, Wendy Doyle, Operations Manager

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

This Newsletter

This monthly Church newsletter is distributed to around 140 individuals and families (in both electronic and paper format) ten months of the year. Most recipients have some connection to Cross Gates Methodist Church, but others do not. The newsletter is also available on the website. If you know of anyone who would like to be added to the email mailing list, then please ask them to send an email to Tracy Dick on tracylouisedick@gmail.com Equally if you no longer wish to receive the newsletter then please send an email to the same address. We welcome articles to be included or ideas on the sort of thing you would like to see covered so please do get in touch if you would like to contribute in any way.

Tracy Dick, Newsletter Editor

A prayer for Lent

Lord God, save us

from the hurt pride that leads to anger,

from the self-centredness that makes us blind to the needs of others

from the selfishness that turns us in on ourselves

By the power of the Holy Spirit

help us to live as Jesus lived.

Amen

Memories of Jean Drake

My memories of Jean (and Harry) are happy ones, even when Leeds United were losing or the cricket at Scarborough was not looking good for Yorkshire.

In her Church life Jean was always willing and happy to help in any way she could. Simply meeting Jean and Harry shopping in the Arndale Centre made the day brighter. ***Beryl Gledhill***

I knew Jean Drake for a number of years. Condolences to her family. For years we met through Ladies Friendship Group. Jean was always a friendly face, and you could have a good chat with her too. Not a lot of the old group are left now, and it will be sadder without Jean. **Pauline Brown**

I knew Jean for more than 64 years – longer even than I have been coming to Cross Gates Methodist Church. We lived near each other and that is how I first met Jean. I remember being in awe of how many people she cared for – Harry, their boys and Harry's Mum. Jean always seemed to be walking really quickly but that was probably because her legs were so much shorter than Harry's!

Then I moved from Headingley Methodist Church to Cross Gates and there were Jean, Harry and their boys. So often Jean was in the kitchen helping to cater for various Church events such as Harvest Tea. I've got lots of photos of us in our 'pinnys'. Apart from Church catering everyone was always welcome in their home too with Jean providing plentiful refreshments. **Pam Wilcox**

Jean has served this Church in many ways over many years.

I first met Jean about 35 years ago - she was a Sunday school teacher in the Beginners department when my daughter started there.

She was a long-standing member and chair of the Ladies Friendship group.

Jean and Harry organised many Church socials, holding meetings of the Social Committee in their home, with Jean providing tea and cakes. When they finally decided to hand over to Richard and myself they still always came to help.

Jean continued to be active in the Church in many ways well into her 90s. As was said at her Thanksgiving service, it is now time for her to rest in peace. **Christine Holdstock**

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.

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.

Websites:

Circuit: www.leedsnandemethodist.org.uk

District: www.yorkshirewestmethodist.org.uk

Good News Stories: You can read uplifting stories by visiting the dedicated Good News Stories page on the Methodist Church website, where inspiring updates are shared. Visit methodist.org.uk/Blog **Get Weekly Updates from the Methodist News:** Sign up to receive updates and stories from across the Methodist Church, delivered straight to your inbox. Each week the Methodist News shares highlights from local Churches and key developments in our shared mission. It's a great way to stay connected with the life and work of the Church, wherever you are. You'll find links to articles, blogs and films – all from the comfort of your armchair! Sign up at methodist.org.uk/Sign Up

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 15th March, Sunday 12th April, 17th 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