



**CROSS GATES  
METHODIST  
CHURCH**  
**Newsletter**  
**April 2026**

MINISTER: Rev Janet Titterton  
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***Dear friends***

I think I must be getting old. Things are moving too fast for me. I can't keep up with the latest technology; I don't know how to use the latest gadgets. My son has just spent a couple of hours showing me how to use my new mobile phone!

And I don't understand a lot of what is going on in the world.

I do not understand why people receive thousands of pounds for being “influencers” who tell us all what we should buy or do in order to be fashionable.

I do not understand why any person, of any political persuasion, religion or race, would deliberately set out to hurt people that they do not know: ordinary, innocent people who are just going about their normal daily lives.

And I do not understand how, after all the centuries of war and the misery it causes, the leaders of the nations are once again dropping missiles on each other.

The world is changing, faster than I can keep up.

On the other hand, perhaps people have always felt this way. Perhaps people felt bewildered by the Norman invasion in 1066, or the Gunpowder Plot in 1605, or the abdication of Edward VIII in 1936.

Things happen, and the world is changed. For better or worse. It can leave us feeling confused or afraid.

At Easter time we remember a truly world-changing event. The death and resurrection of Jesus changed the world for everyone and for ever. Lives were changed, because people were given a real hope of eternal life.

Easter reminds us that life is stronger than death, that love is stronger than hatred and that good is stronger than evil. We hear the words of our risen, conquering Lord.

“In this world you will have troubles. But be of good cheer: I have overcome the world”.

Why not take that as your Easter promise this year?

Wishing you all the peace, hope and joy of this season.

***Your minister and friend, Rev Janet***

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### **April Services**

2 April – 7.30pm	Maundy Thursday Holy Communion <b><i>At Colton</i></b>	Revd Janet Titterton
3 April – 11am	Good Friday <i>Churches Together Joint Service</i>	Revd Janet Titterton
5 April – 10.30am	Easter Day Holy Communion	Revd Janet Titterton
12 April – 10.30am		Mr Michael Prince
19 April – 10.30am	Holy Communion	Revd Jan Tate
26 April – 10.30am		Mr John Summerwill

*Communion Stewards for March are Cynthia Best and Georgina Cressey*

### **Easter Breakfast**

This year we will not be offering Easter breakfast before morning worship. However, please do join us for an Easter celebration **after** morning worship on **Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> April**. There will be the usual hot drinks plus some Easter treats for us all to enjoy.

## **Church Flowers**

Flowers in Church on 7th March were donated by **Georgina and Roy Cressey** in memory of **Georgina's mum**.

There are no donations now until Easter when part of **Beryl Gledhill's** donation will be used for an Easter basket in the entrance.

In between Georgina will put some flowers in vases to see us through to Easter.

Please note there are bookings for April and the beginning of May.

Please contact Georgina Cressey or Barbara Leeming if you would like fresh flowers arranging for a special occasion or in memory of a loved one. We will do our best for the dates required.

*Donations towards the cost are much appreciated.*

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## **Meeting Point Café**

The meeting Point Café was set up in the old Richmond Hill Circuit in 1992. True to its name, it has always been more than a café. It has been a meeting point where all sorts of people from the local community can come to eat and drink, talk and be listened to. The Café Manager, Pauline, with her team of volunteers has built up a reputation of offering understanding, compassion and a listening ear for the many people who use the café.

**Our Support is Needed** – in May a box will be provided in the Galilee for donations of food to be used in the café. Meeting Point rely on the support of Churches in the Circuit. Please give generously if you are able.

**Outside Catering** – in an effort to become more financially independent the café is now offering outside catering. There are a variety of delicious buffet menus to choose from which can also be adapted to suit your individual needs. If you would like to know more, please contact **Pauline on 0113 249 8575**.

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## **Church Annual General Meeting**

This will take place on **Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> May** after morning worship. Given the state of the Church's finances and the difficult decisions that may have to be taken, everyone who can attend is encouraged to do so.

## **Table Top Sales – 4th April & 2nd May**

### **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!*

## **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 and light refreshments.

## **Ladies Friendship Group**

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

In April, meetings will take place on 14<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> April.

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## **Connecting Crossgates - Community Fridge**

***A simple solution to wasting less through the sharing of good quality food.***

St James' Church Hall (entrance - side door in room nearest the church)

Thursdays 2-4pm and 6-7pm

Fridays 8.30am – 10.30am

Choose 12 items from our fridge and baskets. One visit per household per week. Open to all – no referral needed. Members pay £3.50 per visit

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## **Leeds South & East Foodbank**

***helping local people in crisis***

Our Church donates each month through the hard work and dedication of John Best. Please continue to contribute to this vital service.

You can bring items to Church or John Best can collect them from you.

**If you would like to contribute food/toiletries (or make a financial contribution) please contact John Best.**

email [jvbest39@hotmail.com](mailto:jvbest39@hotmail.com) who will gladly collect.

## **Charitable Donation**

### **Thank you for supporting All We Can**

A huge thank you to everyone at Cross Gates Methodist Church for your generous support of All We Can during 2025. Together, you raised **£35.50**, helping to support communities around the world who are facing poverty and injustice.

Because of churches like yours, All We Can, can continue to work alongside communities — not just responding to immediate need, but supporting long-term change rooted in dignity, justice, and hope. This is faith in action, and it really matters.

Your church is part of a much wider Methodist movement, standing with some of the poorest people in the world and working together for change that lasts. Thank you for being part of that story, and for all the ways you continue to live out God's love and justice.

***From everyone at All We Can.***

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## **A Prayer**

Gracious God, we praise you for the light of new life made possible through Jesus.

We praise you for the light of new life that shone on the first witnesses of resurrection.

We praise you for the light of new life that continues to shine in our hearts today.

We pray that the Easter light of life, hope and joy will live in us each day. And that we may be bearers of that light into the lives of others.

***Amen***

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## **Yorkshire Net Zero**

The Yorkshire North and East District has celebrated the successful completion of 'Building Sustainable Hope', a £1.1 million decarbonisation project that the district has been running alongside the wider Methodist Church's commitment to climate justice and net-zero by 2030.

'Building sustainable Hope' has enabled 20 churches to significantly reduce their carbon footprint through the installation of sustainable technologies.

The Revd Leslie Newton, Chair of the Yorkshire North and East Methodist District, commented, 'Through our Building Sustainable Hope project, the District has been taking important steps on our journey to Net Zero, affirming that caring for creation and caring for communities go hand in hand'.

**Following Margaret Yapp's sad death here is a little about her life which is extracted from our 'Spotlight' section and was first printed in February 2023**

Margaret and Geoff were born and lived about four miles apart near Ludlow in Shropshire. Geoff from a staunch Methodist family and Margaret C of E. They met in the late 1950's, married 64 years ago in 1962 and set up their first home in a flat in Gloucester where Margaret, a trained Jeweller, set up a new jewellery dept for the CWS They were not there long before Geoff was moved to London and eventually managed to afford a small house in Chelmsford which was then a two hour daily commute each way to the West End. As in Gloucester they attended the Methodist Church taking part in its sporting and theatrical activities. Whilst in Chelmsford their two sons were born, keeping Margaret fully occupied as Geoff's job was very demanding.

After six years in Chelmsford a succession of four moves in five years (Hereford, Birmingham, Wolverhampton and back to London) saw them back in commuter land when they moved to Harpenden and gave the boys some educational stability.

During their time in Harpenden the boys completed their schooling and went on to University, Margaret was busy running the office for Boots and providing vital work support for Geoff as well as hosting and attending social events connected with his work. During this time, they attended Harpenden Methodist Church where Sunday Morning services and Sunday School both had to be split due to numbers attending!

On retirement they moved to Barwick to be nearer to their family, although Kevin subsequently moved with his work to the US and has become a US citizen and lives on his farm in Illinois. Their other son, Ian is CEO of an Academy in North Yorkshire.

Whilst Geoff and Margaret are adherents, they count themselves as Methodists having attended Church regularly for over 60 years together. In February 2023 Geoff wrote: 'Our faith is strong and God has seen us through many troubled times, has answered many prayers, worked many miracles for us and has looked after us so well. We have so much to be thankful for'.

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When everything was dark and it seemed that the sun would never shine again, your love broke through. Your love was too strong, too wide, too deep for death to hold. The sparks cast by your love; dance and spread and burst forth with resurrection light. **Amen**

## **An Extract from the Joint Ecumenical Statement on the Widening Conflict in the Middle East**

The World Council of Churches, Middle East Council of Churches, Lutheran World Federation, World Communion of Reformed Churches, World Methodist Council, Mennonite World Conference, Christian Conference of Asia, and ACT Alliance join in expressing their deep concern regarding the humanitarian and social impacts of the widening conflict in the Middle East, and the threat it poses to the peace and security of the region and the world.

Having endured many years of complex political, economic and social challenges, the people of Iran—numbering more than 92 million—now face the immediate threats of the current conflict, and a very uncertain future.

The use of force by the United States and Israel against Iran, the killing of Iranian Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei on 28 February, and Iran's subsequent retaliation, have resulted in a war that threatens peace across the region and beyond. It also raises serious concerns regarding the safety and well-being of civilians.

Further, we are deeply concerned that these attacks and their consequences will likely cause even larger population displacements in a region with an already very high number of displaced people.

It must be emphasized that the joint Israeli and US attacks are clearly illegal under international law.

We appeal for an immediate ceasefire, for the urgent resumption of diplomatic engagement and political dialogue through established international and regional mechanisms, and for full compliance by all States with their obligations under international law, including the UN Charter.

Our appeal is grounded in our faith and our Christian ethical values, as well as in law and policy. We affirm that war is incompatible with God's very nature and will for humanity, and against our fundamental Christian principles.

We pray for the people of the Middle East who have suffered too much violence for too long, and too often as the result of interventions by external actors. We invite all churches and Christians of the world, and all people of faith and good will, to join in praying for peace in the Middle East, and everywhere in our world where there is conflict and strife.

***God, bring an end to violence and injustice.***

***Inspire leaders to work towards the well-being of all people.***

***May your love and compassion prevail, uniting nations in a common pursuit of peace. Let your kingdom of peace reign on Earth as in heaven.***

**Condolences:** to Geoff Yapp and all the family and friends of **Margaret** who has recently died. Margaret's funeral will be held on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March at 1pm at Barwick Methodist Church and afterwards at the cricket club. *Geoff would like to invite all his friends from Cross Gates.*

**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:**

The Methodist Church: [www.methodist.org.uk](http://www.methodist.org.uk)

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 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) Deadlines coming up:  
**Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> April, Sunday 17<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*