



**CROSSGATES  
METHODIST CHURCH  
Newsletter  
May 2026**

**MINISTER: Rev Janet Titterton**

***Dear Friends***

As we begin the month of May I am taken in my memory to a Sunday School Anniversary service. Do you remember them? All the Sunday School children in their Sunday best, sat on the platform, and one by one presenting a poem, reading or song that they had practised. The audience was their long-suffering parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles. The concert was followed by the prize-giving, when each child received a book, and then a good old Methodist tea for all!

My memory takes me back to me, aged 3, belting out an enthusiastic if not totally tuneful rendition of “Sing a song of Maytime” – a hymn which I can still remember. The chorus went

“May-time, play-time, God has given us May time!  
Thank Him for His gifts of love, and sing a song of spring”

It is good to see the signs of spring around us, flowers, blossom on the trees, blue skies and warm sunshine. But even better to know that it is God’s gift of love to us. As we live in a world that seems to grow increasingly mad and unstable, as we watch rockets flying around the moon, as we wonder how we are going to be able to fill the car with petrol next week; isn’t it good to be reminded that the earth is the Lord’s, and everything in it? That God is good and faithful, and that no matter what happens around us, we have His promise of love and grace. I hope you are able to hold on to that thought when the news, local, national or world-wide, is alarming and a cause of anxiety.

I would like to remind you of these words, favourites of mine, written 500 years ago by St Theresa of Avila:

Let nothing disturb you,  
Let nothing frighten you,  
All things are passing away:  
God never changes.  
Patience obtains all things  
Whoever has God lacks nothing;  
God alone suffices.

So, let's thank God for His gifts of love today and every day.

***With my love and prayers, Rev Janet***

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### **Church Annual General Meeting – 3<sup>rd</sup> May**

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 must be made, everyone who can attend is encouraged to do so.

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### **May Services**

3 May – 10.30am	Annual General Meeting after worship	Rev Janet Titterton
3 May – 4pm	Circuit Service <b>(at Roscoe)</b>	
10 May – 10.30am		Local Arrangements
14 May – 4pm	Ascension Day <b>(at Oakwood)</b>	Rev Nigel Wright Rev Gemma Fleury
17 May – 10.30am		Ferguson
24 May – 10.30am	Holy Communion	Rev Steven Jones
31 May – 7.30pm	Joint Service <b>(at Garforth)</b>	Rev Janet Titterton

*Communion Stewards for May are Carol Smith & David Barrett*

## **Table Top Sales – 2nd May & 6th June**

### **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 find just 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 0779 9094472.*

Come along and pick up a bargain!

If you are willing to be on a rota to help make drinks at the Saturday Table Top sales (held on the first Saturday of the month) please contact Lynda Robinson or one of the Stewards.

## **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 a snack.

## **Wednesday Group – 3<sup>RD</sup> June at 2.30pm**

We meet weekly at 2.30pm in the Wesley Room behind Church (up the steps and along the corridor to end room) - All welcome

Our first session will commence at 2.30 pm on Wednesday June 3rd with a Bingo game led by Carol Smith. There will also be a time to chatter together over a cup of tea or coffee.

We look forward to meeting together again and hope we have some new people joining us.

See you on the 3rd June. ***The team***

## **East Leeds Repair Café – 16<sup>th</sup> May, 11am – 2pm**

Expert volunteers offer free repairs for items like clothing, furniture, electronics, bikes and toys to help reduce waste. Volunteers can diagnose issues, but they do not have spare parts, so it is best to bring items that do not require specialised replacements. They generally cannot fix microwaves or air fryers.

## **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 just £4 per visit.

## **Church Flowers**

Flowers on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> April were donated by **Dorothy and Alan Tate** who are both celebrating their **90<sup>th</sup> birthdays** this year. Alan's is this month and Dorothy's on 19<sup>th</sup> May.

Flowers on 26<sup>th</sup> April will be in memory of **Alison Marr's Dad and Aunty Barbara. Jennie Reeves** has donated flowers for the 3<sup>rd</sup> May in memory of her **sister Betty and her Dad**.

This brings us to the Church Annual General Meeting and due to the lack of numbers now attending Church I will decide whether to keep arranging fresh flowers or not, as I will be turning 80 this year.

In the meantime, please contact either Georgina Cressey or Barbara Leeming if you want flowers arranged in memory of anybody or to celebrate something special.

Donations towards the cost of fresh flowers is always greatly appreciated.  
*Thank you all for your support*



Our local foodbank started in October 2013 with one distribution centre which has now increased to 10 distribution centres within South and East Leeds. Various reasons cause

people to need help from the foodbank, such as low income, benefit changes and delays, delayed wages and various other situations. The foodbank works with several companies, schools and organisations who donate food, money and provide volunteers. This foodbank is a project founded by local churches and community groups, working together towards stopping hunger in our local area.

This month they especially need UHT milk, tea & coffee, rice pudding & custard, cooking sauces, tinned potatoes and tinned fish.

**If you would like to contribute food/toiletries there is a basket in the Galilee or please contact John Best.**

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

## **Christian Aid**

***Christian Aid week is 10<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> May this year***

***Christian Aid Week is a powerful expression of what can happen when compassion leads to action.***

It's our shared moment to come together – across churches, communities and households – to stand alongside people living in poverty.

For one focused week, thousands of people across Britain and Ireland give, fundraise, pray and act together. Together, those actions make change possible. This year what will you do?

This Christian Aid Week, your support could help mothers in Nairobi, Kenya, facing the devastating reality of urban poverty and the daily struggle to feed their children. Most parents wake every single day knowing that they must go and earn money, otherwise their children won't eat that evening. Fridah knows this reality well. But she's determined to protect her grandchildren from hunger. Through our partner, Beacon of Hope, she's received tools, seeds and training to grow fresh vegetables in a small city space – food she can cook for her family or sell to earn income.

**You can donate via the Christian Aid website**

**[www.christianaid.org.uk](http://www.christianaid.org.uk) by phone on 020 7523 2269 or by sending a cheque to Christian Aid, 35-41 Lower Marsh, London, SE1 7RL**

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## **Middle East Justice Appeal**

People in Gaza and Lebanon are living through unimaginable suffering and terror. Shortly, along with All We Can and the United Reformed Church, the Methodist Church in Britain will relaunch the Middle East Justice Appeal.

All donations will go to our partners in these countries who are delivering essential, life-transforming work. Details of how to donate will be shared on social media channels and the website. The President Designate of the Methodist Church, the Revd Mark Slaney, visited Palestine in March and you can read more about his visit at [methodist-news.org.uk](http://methodist-news.org.uk)

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## **A Prayer that we be open to God**

Plunged in the ocean of your love, O God, and walking by faith, let us rest in your promises and receive your Holy Spirit. Amen

***Phoebe Palmer, American Methodist Evangelist (1807 – 1874)***

## The Reunion

I think there was a mixture of excitement and slight trepidation felt amongst the 50 or so “teenagers” who gathered for the Cross Gates Methodist Church Young People’s Department meet up at Whitkirk Cricket Club on a sunny Saturday afternoon (April 18<sup>th</sup>), circa 45 years since many had last been together.

It was a wonderful opportunity to hear how others had lived their lives to date, and to briefly recount our stories of love, work, pastimes etc and just to relax in the company of other former teenage YPD members.

It was good to discover there were many friendship groups within the gathering which had flourished across the decades and to realise how far flung we all are now – still a lot in the Leeds area, of course, but others living as far away as Stirling and Devon.

We reminisced, with the aide memoire of scores of photographs amassed by the late Barbara Thompson, one of our much-loved department leaders.

We remembered also Jean and Alan who, with Barbara and others, took turns to engage us teenagers in religious and philosophical debates as we lounged on old sofas and chairs in our room on Sunday mornings. They also took us to Scarborough each year for a weekend of contemplation and fun, staying at the Methodist Guesthouse and we remembered Friday night youth club fun (regularly followed by a few drinks in the Travellers Rest for the slightly older ones!)

And then there was Mr Taylor – our Minister – who was one of those understated but truly charismatic people who held everyone together and helped shape the grown-ups we became.

We remembered lots of good times and the fun we had and those who could, met up again, probably for one more time, in the Church gallery for the Sunday service. It was led by our own Rev Jan Tate and Barbara Easton (Kimsey), with John Riley blowing the dust from the organ, making the occasion even more special. Our rousing rendition of the final hymn ‘Oh Jesus I Have Promised’, to the modern jazzy tune, was really quite emotional! ***Sarah Beadsworth (Cousin)***

Our reminiscing was helped by a plethora of photos. Many were grainy and some discoloured, but they captured the spirit of the times in a very evocative way. It was clear from various conversations that attending YPD had had a lasting impact on people’s lives. We have each journeyed through life in our own individual ways but have carried with us the

essence of those meaningful conversations that took place each Sunday and at our annual Scarborough weekends. Gratitude must go to Rev Ken Taylor and all the leaders of the Department who with their words, leadership and example have helped us on our journeys through the world.

It was great to see so many also attend Sunday worship, led by former members of the Department – Rev Janet Tate and Barbara Easton (formerly Kimsey). John Riley travelled from Edinburgh to attend the reunion and coax wonderful music from our reluctant Church organ. Fittingly the focus of the service was the journey to Emmaus and how small acts of kindness can make a big difference. In a troubled world we all have it inside us to make small gestures that can make it a better place. **Tracy Dick (White)**

It was lovely to see everyone yesterday. The time and space seemed to melt away. It was so easy to chat, reminisce and laugh. It reminded me of how precious those years were and how blessed I am to have shared those times with such beautiful people. **Steve Cree**

The YPD reunion was a chance to reconnect with friends from the past and share our lives' journeys. The atmosphere was relaxed, jovial and very welcoming. The Sunday service was equally warm and welcoming, with a pertinent theme and contributions from YPD past members. A great shared experience. **Anita Warrington (Godwin)**

***A massive thank you to the organisers of the reunion: – Richard Drake, Alison Lambert, Deborah Carter, Linda Booth and David Jackson.***

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### **A Prayer of Gratitude for Friendship**

Heavenly Father, I come before You with a heart full of gratitude for the gift of friendship. Thank You for the people You have placed in my life who walk alongside me. I am thankful for the precious memories of shared joy and laughter, as well as the comfort and strength offered during difficult times. Bless my friends, near and far, and strengthen the bonds that connect us. Help me to be a true friend, reflecting Your love, kindness and forgiveness. **Amen**

**Congratulations:** to Dorothy and Alan Tate who are celebrating their 90<sup>th</sup> birthdays.

**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](http://www.leedsnandemethodist.org.uk)

District: [www.yorkshirewestmethodist.org.uk](http://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](http://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/SignUp](http://methodist.org.uk/SignUp)

**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](mailto:tracylouisedick@gmail.com) Deadlines coming up:

**Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> May, Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> June.**

**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*