



**CROSSGATES  
METHODIST CHURCH  
Newsletter  
June 2026**

**MINISTER: Rev Janet Titterton**

The month of June is always a very important one for the Methodist Church in the UK, as it is the month of Conference. Ministers and lay people from all over the country come together to reflect on the work of the Church and to make decisions regarding the future. Sometimes, big decisions are made that affect us all.

One of the highlights of Conference is the ordination services, at which new presbyters and deacons are ordained for ministry. This year, 2026, sees the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of my own ordination, which was in London in 2016.

As with any anniversary, I am looking back to that day and thinking about my hopes and dreams as I was ordained, and whether the reality has been anything like the expectations. And the answer is “Definitely not!”

I could never have imagined ministering through a global pandemic – what a strange time that was. I envisaged more baptisms and weddings, and certainly not so many funerals. And I definitely was not prepared for supporting church families through the painful and challenging process of deciding to close their church and declare “mission accomplished in this place”.

In May I drove up to my “home” church in Gateshead for their closing service. The church where I was baptised, confirmed and married. The church where my parents’ funerals were held. Reduced in 10 years from 60+ members to 10, and therefore no longer viable. It was a day of memories tinged with sadness and shock. No-one saw it coming.

People often say to me “It’s a good thing we don’t know what is coming next”. Indeed, we don’t have any idea what awaits us for our own lives, or for our loved ones, or for our churches. But we do know who holds the

future, we do know that our times are in God's hand, and we know that whatever comes we will have God's presence, love and grace to help us through it.

I do like to end these letters with a verse of a poem or a hymn, and there is only hymn in my mind today; a Charles Wesley hymn that we sang together with sadness, but also with faith and confidence at that final service in Gateshead.

"This, this is the God we adore. Our faithful, unchangeable friend. Whose love is as great and His power. And neither knows measure nor end.

'Tis Jesus the First and the Last, whose Spirit shall guide us safe home. We'll praise Him for all that is past. And trust Him for all that's to come."

May God help us all to praise Him for all that is past and trust Him for all that's to come.

***With my love and prayers for you all, Rev Janet***

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### **June Services**

7 June – 10.30am		Mr John Summerwill
14 June – 10.30am		Mr Grenville Jensen
21 June – 10.30am	Holy Communion	Rev Steven Jones
28 June – 10.30am		Conference Service

*Communion Stewards for June are John Best and Roy Cressey*

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### **The Methodist Conference**

This year the Conference will take place in Telford between 25<sup>th</sup> June and 1<sup>st</sup> July. The Conference is the governing body of the Methodist Church. Meeting once a year, it provides a forum for prayerful reflection and decision-making on issues that shape the life of the Church, as well as matters that impact the wider community, the nation and the world. Further information (including the agenda) can be found on the Methodist Church website.

### **Church Flowers**

Flowers for 1st May were sponsored by **Jennie Reeves** in memory of her sister **Betty** and her **Dad**.

Due to putting the flowers in vases I personally think they last longer.

My daughter recently had an accident which has meant I have had to miss arranging flowers for a while, but I hope this hasn't affected anything.

I said that I would decide after the AGM whether to continue regularly arranging flowers and I have agreed to continue for the time being. Please continue to support flowers in Church and I will do my best to continue.

*Please pass any donations to Georgina or Barbara and we will try our best to keep to the dates you want and provide pretty arrangements. Contact Georgina Cressey or Barbara Leeming.*

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### **Church AGM**

Thank you to everyone who attended the Church AGM after the service on 3<sup>rd</sup> May. The following people were appointed and elected to the Church Council:

*Minister in Pastoral Charge – Rev Janet Titterton*

*The Church Stewards – Barbara Lloyd Cedric Robinson, John Blyth*

*The Church Council Secretary – Tracy Dick*

*The Church Treasurer – Alison Lambert*

*Secretary of the Pastoral Committee – Margaret Saysell*

The AGM elected: Denise Durkin, John Best, David Barrett, Cynthia Best and Bill Ineson

People appointed to ensure that all areas of the Church's life are adequately represented: Carol Smith (*Communion Steward*),

Amanda Brow (*Stewardship Recorder & Assistant to the Treasurer*),

Richard Holdstock (*Health & Safety Officer*), Linda Booth (*Property Finance Officer*), Lynda Robinson (*Community Outreach*), Pam Wilcox (*Pastoral Committee Rep*), Deborah Carter (*Gift Aid & Safeguarding Officer*), Christine Holdstock (*Circuit Rep & Worship Leader*).

In addition, Adrian Marshall attends as Circuit Steward.

### **Monday Coffee Morning**

Please come and join us each Monday in the Church Hall between 10:00am and 11:30am if you would like someone to talk to while you enjoy a drink.

**Table Top Sales – 6th June & 4th July 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!

### **Wednesday Group**

*This takes place weekly in the Wesley Room at 2.30pm. All welcome.*

03/6 – Opening Session, tea/coffee, bingo and chatter

10/6 – Bring your favourite poem, hymn or reading

17/6 – Shipshape, a talk by our local maritime expert, Roy Cressey

24/6 – Safeguarding and Youth Work by John Best

### **East Leeds Repair Café**

**Saturday 20th June, 11am to 2pm in the Church Hall.**

You are invited to bring items in need of repair to try and keep them out of our city dumps as well as helping to reduce the cost of replacing these items when it is unnecessary. Volunteers will attempt to help you repair your item(s), sharing their skills and talents as well as their passion for our community and for creation. If a volunteer does not feel able to repair your item, they will try to offer advice as to how it can be repaired.

### **The Old Fire Station**

SPACE2 is based at the Old Fire Station, Gipton Approach, Leeds, LS9 6NL. It is easily accessible by bus. SPACE2 offer a range of activities for all ages and interests. These include Tai Chi, chair-based gentle exercise, drama group, men's group, sewing skills, walking with plants. Most events and activities are free and you can find out more via their website [SPACE2.ORG.UK](http://SPACE2.ORG.UK) or contact

Jelena Zindovic ([jelenaz@space2.org.uk](mailto:jelenaz@space2.org.uk))

or Rafaela Pelegrina ([rafaelap@space2.org.uk](mailto:rafaelap@space2.org.uk))

or telephone 0113 3200159

### **A Prayer**

Lord, help me to give this day to you  
so that I might really live.

Help me to say when things are difficult,

'Lord, this day is your day and I belong to you'.

Lord of the morning, help me to live. **Amen**

### **Summer Bands in Leeds Parks**

Enjoy the sounds of Summer with a free series of concerts in Leeds' parks. A popular programme of free outdoor concerts is taking place from May to September across the city.

Featuring great entertainment from the region's brass, jazz and concert bands, these relaxed Sunday afternoon concerts offer the chance to enjoy live music alfresco in some of Leeds' most beautiful parks and green spaces.

Concerts are on Sundays. Admission is free and no booking is required. Taking a folding chair and your own refreshments can make the experience more enjoyable.

Discover the full programme on Leeds City Council's website.

Those closest to Cross Gates are:

Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> June, 2.30pm – Manston Park

Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> June, 2.30pm – Temple Newsam Estate

Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> July, 2.30pm – Manston Park

Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> August, 2.30pm – Temple Newsam Estate

Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> August, 2.30pm – Temple Newsam Estate

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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 decarbonization 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. To mark the occasion, a special service was held in September last year at Northallerton Methodist Church.

The Revd Leslie Newton, Chair of 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. By working together, churches have been able to reduce their carbon footprint and created greener, more welcoming spaces that serve both congregations and their neighbours. Every step forward makes a real difference and shows what is possible when faith and action come together.'

### **Throwback to June 1980, Throwback to June 1980**

My dear friends

‘And then on June 1<sup>st</sup> we put it all together – all the Christian faith we have affirmed from November till now’ I wrote in May.

June 1st is the halfway mark in the Christian year. From now on, lessons and worship will be about Christian attitudes and activity, how we should put the faith into action, practising what we preach.

Until today we have been spelling out what that faith is. Today, Trinity Sunday, brings the climax and summary of what Christians believe about God.

That word ‘God’ has to be carefully defined. It is not exclusively or specially a Christian word. There are all kinds of religions and all kinds of gods. Sometimes ideas about a ‘god’ are in direct conflict with what Christians believe. And even Christians themselves too often think of God in ways that are unworthy of the Gospel. Some very strange things have been said and done in the name of Christ or of the Holy Spirit.

The early Christians developed their own language to express what they believed about God. They tried to explain their own rich, distinctive, and very varied experience. They arrived at the only concept that comes anywhere near what Christians mean when they speak of ‘God’ – the Trinity of Father, Son and Spirit. There is our experience (and theirs) of God near to us, within us, active and present wherever we are, a transforming love, making peace and patience, striving for new beginnings, recreating community – that’s the Spirit!

There is the staggering claim that Jesus of Nazareth is the human face of God, the absolute paradox that you encounter God in this man. Belief in the Son shatters all popular ideas of a powerful God behind the scenes who will make everything right in the end. This is God committed to his creatures, standing with us in suffering.

There is belief in the Father, known through Jesus, utterly to be trusted, and yet so much beyond anything we can understand, the depth of Godhead, mysterious, hidden, beyond the reach of finite minds.

In this Trinity, the very nature of God is love; eternal reality is a loving relationship, humble vulnerable, serene.

If we could really take this belief to heart, let our lives be invaded and disturbed by it, our faith and practice would be very different from what they are – and much nearer to what is eternal and true.

Yours sincerely, *Rev Kenneth Taylor*

**Throwback to June 1980, Throwback to June 1980**  
**Leeds South and East Foodbank (Trussell Trust)**  
**Helping local people in crisis**

- In the last three years the number of people relying on Leeds South & East Foodbank for a food parcel has increased by **30%**.
- In 2025 the Leeds South & East Foodbank provided **12,812** food parcels to people in need.
- **30%** of the people supported in Leeds in 2025 were children.
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Over 90% of the food distributed by the Foodbank is donated by the public - that's why your donations are absolutely vital. The most requested items are 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 you can contact John Best email [jvbest39@hotmail.com](mailto:jvbest39@hotmail.com) who will gladly collect.

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### **All We Can – Methodist Relief & Development**

*All We Can is an international development and emergency relief organisation working through partnership with our global neighbours most impacted by disasters, poverty and injustice to enable flourishing and resilient communities.*

This Father's Day, **All We Can** is offering for sale a card which will help fathers in need. Just £15 can support a father like Sumo. Sumo is a father of four. After his wife died, he took on full responsibility for raising his children. When he was 13, his school in Liberia was invaded by rebels and he was taken and conscripted into the army, where he served for 14 years. He was the first graduate of Camp for Peace's War Affected Youth (WAY) programme, which helps former soldiers reintegrate into society. Sumo trained as an electrician and now runs his own electrical shop.

£15 has the ability to provide men like Sumo with the tools they need to reintegrate into their community and train in a new vocation.

**To buy a 'Father's Day Tools for Success' card please order by Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> June via the All We Can website.**

**[allwecan.org.uk](http://allwecan.org.uk)**

**Condolences:** to the family and friends of Betty Charlott who died recently and whose funeral service was held at Church on 8<sup>th</sup> May.

**Congratulations:** Georgina Cressey on her 'big birthday'.

Jenny (nee Holdstock) & Michael Cowling on their first wedding anniversary.

**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)

**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 14th June** (for July & August editions) and **Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> August** (for the September edition).

**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*