



CROSSGATES METHODIST CHURCH Newsletter July & August 2026

MINISTER: Rev Janet Titterton

Dear Friends in Christ,

So here I am, all of a sudden, coming to the end of my first year as your minister. My late Grandma always said that as she got older “The days drag and the years fly.” I know just what she means! This year has been hard work, sometimes I have looked at my ever-growing “To do” list and wondered if I will ever get to the end of it, and sometimes every week has felt more like a month. But at the same time, it feels like no time at all since I was making the move from Peterborough and starting to get to know you.

The church year, and therefore the life of a minister, runs in cycles. July and August are months in the church year that most ministers look forward to and enjoy. The pace of life changes. Most of the meetings have been put on hold, there are no major festivals to consider, and many people are off on holiday. We can ease off the throttle a little, take stock of the year that has gone, make some plans for the year that will begin in September, and hopefully find some time for a holiday.

The Bible tells us that God created the world in six periods of time, and on the seventh, God rested. Rest is an important part of our life, and of our Christian life too. It is so important that we recognise when the time has come to rest. When it is the right time to lay down the burden we have been carrying, and rest from it.

Our friends at Cross Gates have recently come to the decision that the time has come to lay down the burden of finding the resources to maintain the work of being the Methodist Church in that place. A burden that they have faithfully carried for many years now, and that has cost them much in terms of finances, energy and time. More information is available below.

We hold the members of Cross Gates in prayer, we thank them for their faithful work and service, and as we do so we remember the words of Jesus:

‘Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.’

If you are able to find some rest this summer time, I hope that you will do so and that you will benefit from it.

May God continue to richly bless you all,

With my love and prayers, Rev Janet

July & August Services

05 July – 10.30am		Revd Joyce Nicholson
05 July – 4pm	Circuit Service	<i>at Chapel Allerton</i>
12 July – 10.30am	Holy Communion	Revd Janet Titterton
19 July – 10.30am		Miss Mary Patchett
26 July – 10.30am		Mr Tom Ferguson
02 Aug – 10.30am		Mr Ted Britton
09 Aug – 10.30am		Revd Steven Jones
16 Aug – 10.30am		Mrs Hazel Featherstone
23 Aug – 10.30am	Holy Communion	Revd Janet Titterton
30 Aug – 10.30am	Joint service	<i>at Colton</i>

Communion Stewards for July are Carol Smith & John Blyth and in August they are Denise Durkin & Keith Westbrook.

Save the Date **Sunday 27th September**

Final Holy Communion Service: **10.30am**

Final Service: Harvest Songs of Praise and Tea: **3pm**

Further information to follow

Cross Gates Methodist Church

It was with sadness and heavy hearts that the Church Council at Cross Gates Methodist Church voted unanimously on June 8th to seek permission to cease to meet for worship. If permission is granted by the Circuit and District, the church will ‘cease to meet’ at the end of September.

There will be two final services at Cross Gates on Sunday September 27th : a service of Holy Communion at the usual time of 10.30a.m., and at 3.00p.m. an afternoon service of thanksgiving and celebration, a “Harvest Songs of Praise”, to which all friends from the circuit and beyond are invited. The afternoon service will be followed by a tea, and there will be plenty of opportunity for reminiscing and sharing together.

All the members at Cross Gates will take some time to decide where their futures may lie. Many will want to transfer to other local Methodist churches, or perhaps to another denomination that worships locally. I am sure that wherever they choose to go, they will be given a warm welcome. To all at Cross Gates, Rev Janet and the church stewards are always available for a conversation if you feel you need to talk about anything.

There are still many questions to be answered, processes to be followed and decisions to be made, including about the future of the church buildings and their contents. For now, please hold all of Cross Gates, both church and community, in your love and prayers, praying that God’s will for the area and its people will be done.

As I said in my June letter:

Let’s praise God for all that is past, and trust God for all that’s to come.

Revd Janet Titterton

A Prayer

Loving God, we come to you with full and heavy hearts. We thank You for the countless lives touched, the faith nurtured, and the love shared within these walls over the years. We honour the history, the fellowship, and Your constant presence in this place.

As we close this chapter, grant us the grace to release our sadness and the courage to embrace the changes before us. Though this building will no longer gather us, remind us that the true Church is not made of wood and stone, but of the people who carry Your light.

Guide each member as we transition to new paths and new communities. Bind us together in spirit and may the seeds of faith planted here continue to bloom in the wider world. We ask your blessings of peace, hope and direction upon everyone who has called this church home.

In Your holy and comforting name, we pray. **Amen**

Church Flowers

Flowers in church on 14th June were **donated by Jennie Reeves in memory of her sister Hilda and brother Terry.**

If anyone would like to sponsor flowers in Church until we close, please let me know as I will continue until then.

There are no sponsored weeks coming up so the balance of money in the flower fund will be used in the coming weeks but please do continue donations till September.

Contact: Georgina Cressey or Barbara Leeming *Thank you for all your support.*

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 and refreshments.

Table Top Sales – 4th July, 1st August and 5th September **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

01 July	'Beautiful Lakes of Croatia' with Christine Holdstock	Barbara
08 July	A Beetle Drive – always a favourite	Cynthia
15 July	A musical afternoon given by the Concordia Choir	Georgina
22 July	Memories of 'The Pennine Way' by John Best	Roy
29 July	'A Musical Interlude' given by John Blyth	Roy
05 Aug	Share your childhood memories	John Blyth
12 Aug	Annual General Meeting. Our Future	Roy
19 Aug	End of Session Lunch	
26 Aug	NO MEETING – bank holiday	

East Leeds Repair Café

Saturday 18th July, 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.

Community Fridge and Pantry for LS14/LS15

This can be found at **St James' Manston Church Hall**. Unlike a food bank the Community Fridge is open to all. You can choose 12 items for £4. The food is sourced from surplus, so it is a simple solution to wasting less through the sharing of good quality food. **The Community Fridge is open Thursday 2pm – 4pm, 6 – 7pm and Friday 9am - 11am.**

For more information contact the Food Project Manager:

Andy@connectingcrossgates.com or 07840 033637

Morethan Community Café – Methodist Church Hall

Fridays 11am – 1pm

A warm welcome for all ages. Homemade cakes and tots' area.

Crafty Connections Club – Methodist Church Hall

1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month, 1pm – 3pm

Bring your own craft project – refreshments and a warm welcome provided.

On Wednesday 15th July there will be a tutor-led session in conjunction with Space2. Learn about 'quilling' to make cards. Please email annette@connectingcrossgates.com to reserve a place for this session.

Crossgates Community Garden

Located at Crossgates Community Centre, Maryfield Avenue, LS15 7TU
Gardening Sessions 10am – 12 noon.

Saturday 8th, 15th (includes a community event) and 29th August.

Let's Grow East Leeds Fest at Chapel FM

Saturday 25th July – 12 noon – 4pm

Stalls, crafts, cooking, performances and lots of family friendly fun!

All celebrating community food growing and nature.

For more information, please email sara@connectingcrossgates.com or andy@connectingcrossgates.com

A Light-hearted Look at the Recruitment Process for Stewards in Days Gone By

I was visiting Dorothy and Alan Tate recently and Dorothy told me about something that happened in our Church approximately 30 years ago. It surprised me and yet perhaps it should not have done, if I think back in history. **In Cross Gates Methodist Church, Stewards had to be men!** In fact, women were not even allowed in the Vestry.....When the Stewards were in the Vestry the door was firmly shut. In about 1995 It was decided that Sheila Titball could become the first female Steward. Shock horror!! I bet that caused some consternation! She did her 4 years and as far as we know nothing terrible happened. In fact, Dorothy remembers she was very well supported by her fellow male Stewards.

When it was time for her to step down Dorothy was approached to be a Steward. She was not too keen and said she thought Alan would be willing to Steward again, but the reply came '*no we want you*'. I imagine because whoever was asking her did not want it to go back to being a male dominated role. So, Dorothy did it and became the 2nd woman to become a Steward. She recalls there were certain jobs she was not allowed to do. One of the jobs was that she could not carry the Bible into Church prior to the service!

Amazing! Although I do not know why I am surprised! The Minister of the time used to speak to the male Stewards' wives and inform them they would be 'expected' to sort tea etc for meetings and as and when refreshments were required. As if a male Steward in those days, could be expected to do that!

Thank goodness times have changed.

Barbara Lloyd, Senior Steward

How we lost the World Cup in 1966

World Cup fever has hit Britain once again with millions glued to their TVs cheering on England and Scotland as they take part in the world's biggest sporting tournament.

Today the connection to Methodism of one of the World Cup's most intriguing episodes is little known – six decades on from the strange series of events.

Held amid the swinging sixties, the 1966 World Cup marked the England's team biggest triumph. Bobby Moore hoisted aloft the world-famous Jules Rimet Trophy after England beat West Germany in the final, in front of a crowd of nearly 100,000 at Wembley Stadium and more than 33 million watching at home.

But it was a moment that almost never happened. Four months earlier, the silver-gilt statue was stolen from Methodist Central Hall in Westminster where it was being exhibited alongside rare stamps. The story began in January 1966, when the Jules Rimet was taken to England – the host nation for that year's World Cup. A month later, the Stanley Gibbons stamp company were allowed to put the famous Cup on display as part of their Stampex exhibition at Methodist Central Hall library, on the condition that the trophy be kept under constant guard. Although guards kept watch around the clock, with additional guards standing beside the display cabinet while the exhibition was open, the thief found a hole in the defences. The Central Hall was used for Methodist services on Sundays, and the trophy was not so heavily guarded. Just after midday on Sunday 20th March, the guards noticed that the prized trophy had been stolen from the library. In a case worthy of Sherlock Holmes, Scotland Yard detectives conducted interviews, with one churchgoer describing seeing a suspicious man in the vicinity. Subsequently there was a ransom demand which did not come to fruition with police only managing to arrest a go-between rather than the real robber. The location of the missing trophy remained a mystery. But a week after the theft, which had caused headlines around the globe, collie-cross Pickles, walking with his owner David Corbett, began sniffing at a package under a hedge. To the astonishment of Mr Corbett, it contained the missing World Cup. He promptly handed it to police who returned it to the FA before the opening of the 1966 tournament in July, with England subsequently claiming victory. After his historic find, Pickles was treated like a celebrity – he was presented with a medal, appeared on Blue Peter, was invited to shop openings and received a year's supply of dog food. There is now a blue plaque in London marking the spot he made his discovery. This summer, football fans will be descending on the USA, Mexico and Canada with the national teams of 48 countries looking to lift the famous trophy.

But while enjoying the sporting spectacle, think of the bewildered staff at Methodist Central Hall 60 years ago – and thank the Lord for Pickles the inquisitive dog.

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.

Leeds South & East Foodbank, helping local people in crisis: If you would like to contribute food/toiletries there is a basket in the Galilee or please contact John Best email jvbest39@hotmail.com who will gladly collect.

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/SignUp

Newsletter: Please email contributions for the Newsletter to Tracy Dick tracylouisedick@gmail.com Deadlines coming up:

Sunday 16th August (for the September edition) ***I am hoping to continue with a newsletter until the end of the year at least, but this will depend on whether there is sufficient interest and content.***

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