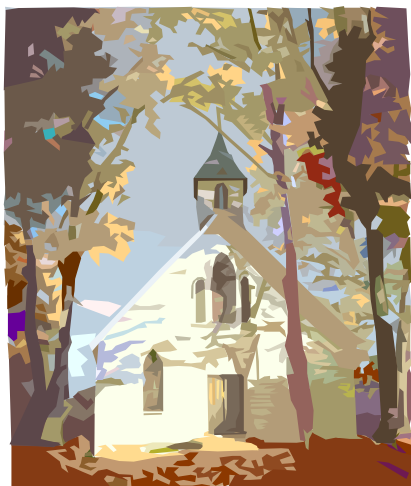




**CROSSGATES
METHODIST CHURCH
September
2026
Newsletter**

MINISTER: Rev Janet Titterton

CROSS GATES METHODIST CHURCH

FINAL SERVICES IN THE CHURCH BUILDING

SUNDAY 27TH SEPTEMBER 2026

10.30AM - HOLY COMMUNION & HARVEST FESTIVAL

3PM - SONGS OF PRAISE

FOLLOWED BY AFTERNOON TEA

***ALL ARE WELCOME TO JOIN US AND CELEBRATE
THE LIFE OF OUR CHURCH IN THE LOCAL
COMMUNITY FOR OVER 130 YEARS.***

Dear Friends,

The minister's message for September would normally be wishing you all a "Happy New Church Year", talking of new ministers joining a circuit,

remembering children and young people returning to school or going off to university for the first time. In the Methodist Church, September is a time to think about new starts and fresh opportunities.

Of course, that is not quite how it feels for us at Cross Gates this September. This is the month in which we will be holding our final act of worship – a time of very mixed emotions. We want to celebrate and give thanks for 130 years of worship, fellowship and service in this place. But there is inevitably sadness that due to financial difficulties it has proved impossible to secure the life of the church here into the future.

At a time like this we ask many questions of ourselves: and as your minister I am also asking myself: “Where did we go wrong? What should we have done differently? Could we have worked harder, tried harder, given more, prayed more? Is God disappointed in us?”

It’s natural to ask these questions, but I am quite sure that no, God is not angry, or disappointed. God loves us. God has always loved us and cared for us. God still goes on loving, and whatever happens next, He always will. We cannot drift beyond His love and care.

We have had 130 good years, with much to celebrate and be thankful for. We and all those who came before us have faithfully preached, taught, prayed, given, opened our doors and opened our hearts to the community. We have loved our neighbour. We have lifted up the name of Jesus. We have done everything that has been asked of us; faithfully, lovingly.

Nothing that has happened in our buildings is lost. It lives on. It is in our hearts and memories, but most of all it is in that relationship between God and His people that has grown and strengthened and become more precious day by day, week by week. God’s love for us, discovered and experienced at Cross Gates Methodist Church, has taken root in our lives and grown and spilled over in our love for others.

We have experienced God’s love in our place of worship. But God’s love is not confined to that place. God’s love surrounds us and goes with us into whatever it is that lies ahead.

May that wonderful love make a home in our hearts, so that wherever we go and whatever we do, God goes with us. God has a plan and a hope and a future for us all. May each one of us have the grace and courage to step out in faith, seek it, and find it.

With my love, support and prayers, Rev Janet

September Services

6th September	10.30am		Mr Ted Britton
13th September	10.30am		Mr Tom Ferguson
20th September	10.30am		Mrs Ann Johnson
27th September	10.30am	Holy Communion Harvest Festival	Rev Janet Titterton
27 th September	3pm	Songs of Praise	Rev Janet Titterton

The Communion Stewards for September are Carol Smith & David Barrett

Harvest Festival on 27th September at 10.30am

Please bring your gifts of food and donations of money to our final holy communion and harvest festival service at 10.30am on 27th September.

They will be given to Meeting Point Café in Harehills, a Methodist outreach initiative which provides low-cost food and a Christian presence in an area of great social need.

Church Flowers

Flowers in Church on 2nd August were donated by **Shirley Clough in memory of Roy and Ray.**

On 16th August flowers were donated by **Roy and Georgina Cressey in memory of her mum and dad's wedding anniversary, and mum's birthday.**

Unfortunately, due to the hot weather the flowers have not lasted very well.

Beryl Gledhill has donated a cheque towards the cost of flowers for our final service when we hope to have a lovely display. The flower fund is very low, and any small donations would be appreciated otherwise I will use silk flowers for the remaining services.

Thank you to all who have donated flowers in the past and over the years.

Georgina

Please contact Georgina or Barbara for further information.

Table Top Sale

Saturday 5th September - 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 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!

We would like to thank everyone who has helped in any way to raise funds for Church at the Table Top Sales either by manning the tables or by generously donating or buying items. The recent outdoor sales raised £400 to be shared between Meeting Point Cafe and Action for Children.

Monday Coffee Morning, Final Dates:

24th August

7th September

14th September

21st September

Please come and join us in the Church Hall between 10:00am and 11:30am if you would like someone to talk to while you enjoy a cuppa, toasted teacake or crumpet.

East Leeds Repair Café – Saturday 19th September

11am – 2pm

The East Leeds Repair Café is a safe space 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. Our 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. Bring in your broken item(s) or just pop in for a hot drink.

Ladies Friendship Group

The Ladies Friendship Group meetings will restart on 8th September in the Wesley Room. The next meeting is on 22nd September. **All**

welcome.

The future of the Group and where it might take place in the future is to be discussed.

Leeds South and East Foodbank (Trussell Trust) **Helping local people in crisis**

Thank you to everyone who has supported our regular donations to the local food bank over many years. Many thanks to John Best who has

worked tirelessly to make this initiative successful and to support those in need in East Leeds.

Over 90% of the food distributed is donated by the public – that's why individuals and their food donations are vital.

Currently, the food bank urgently needs donations of **tinned vegetables, including potatoes, tinned fruit, UHT milk, rice pudding and cereals** but all donations are gratefully received.

Please continue to support the food bank in any way you can.

Many supermarkets have convenient collection points.

Or you can send monetary donations to: Leeds South & East Food Bank, Unit 18, Millshaw Park Industrial Estate, Millshaw Park Avenue, Leeds LS11 0LR, Tel 0113 277 2229. For bank transfers or regular giving please give them a call.

Dear friends

I know that for many of us the last service here in this place will be a sad time but personally I don't see it as the end for me, but indeed the beginning of a new chapter for me spiritually and where the good Lord leads me, I WILL GO!!

I've already started moving forward in short steps to where the Lord wants me to go. I know it will be a long journey and have got a lot to learn but I know God will direct me and will not let me fail.

The good news is I am not leaving the parish, nor will I be leaving my lovely friends and my extended family that I have made here in this place the place I can call home I'll always be very close.

And I just want to thank you all for your love and friendship and support for me over the last 6 plus years and for letting me reach out to you in my sad times (you know who you all are you have been a light in my darkness bless you all).

May God bless and guide each one of you in your next chapter and may we still stay connected.

Many Blessings to you all. June Holliday

Charitable Donations - Alison Lambert, Church Treasurer

The following 'thank yous' for our donations have been received:

From St George's Crypt:

To all the lovely folk at Cross Gates Methodist,
Thank you so much for the recent kind donation to the Crypt – it really is very much appreciated and such a Blessing. With love and prayers, God Bless, *'Our life does not consist in making up beautiful phrases but in performing beautiful deeds'*. **Andy Muckle (Chaplin, St George's Crypt)**

From the Meeting Point Café:

I acknowledge with grateful thanks, receipt of a £150 donation to Meeting Point café funds from Cross Gates Methodist Church.

Our thoughts and prayers are with you and with all our friends at Cross Gates as you continue your journey through the processes and the heartache that have to be borne as the Church ceases to meet, and as you try to address all the questions for the future.

Thank you for all the generous support, Cross Gates folks have given to Meeting Point over the years.

Ted Britton – Treasurer of Meeting Point Café

A Prayer for Exam Results

Loving God,

We thank you for all our amazing young people who are awaiting their exam results at whatever stage they are at.

Lord, we pray that they get the grades they deserve and will know to seek you in their rejoicing.

Lord, we also pray for those who may not quite get the results they desire, but we pray that they know their grades do not define them, only your love does.

Lord, we thank you for your patience and your guidance at these times.

Amen

(Genesis Padgett, Youth President 2025/26)

'This summer is a wake-up call for climate action'

The Methodist Church's partner All We Can is launching a campaign looking at the devastating impact of climate change across the world. In a series of reflections, different people will tell of how the change in weather

is causing horrific impacts for some of the Earth's poorest and most vulnerable people.

The Methodist Church's Net Zero Engagement Officer, Jack Slater-Wells, writes amid record breaking heat waves, droughts and wildfires affecting much of the UK:

Great Britain is famously, a rainy island. But the prevailing weather conditions in recent months have forced many of us to reconsider whether this will remain the case in a warming world. Like much of Europe, the summer of 2026 has been marked by exceptional heat, unprecedentedly low rainfall and wildfires. While warm and dry conditions are not new, the science is clear that climate change has made this summer hotter and dryer than it would otherwise be.

We once talked about the climate crisis in the future tense, as a scary and unknown future on our horizon. It is now undeniable that the climate crisis is here.

In the Methodist Church we are committed to reducing our contribution to this crisis by taking reasonable steps to become a net-zero Church.

Of course, the Methodist Church is fundamentally nothing more or less than the sum of the people who make it up. And in countless different ways, we have all been working to reduce our emissions in our own lives: taking public transport, eating less meat, flying less, recycling our waste. And yet, we know we must move faster to make the hoped for future a reality. As serious as the situation is here in Britain, the urgency of the climate crisis in other parts of the world is even greater. This injustice is compounded when we consider that many of those most affected by the climate crisis have done the least to cause it.

The summer of 2026 should be a wake-up call for those of us in Britain. The climate crisis has arrived, and if we are serious when we say we are called to do justice then climate action must be central to everything we do.

***For more information on All We Can or to donate please visit:
All We Can Christian Development and Emergency Relief Charity UK***

This Newsletter: Please email contributions for the Newsletter to Tracy Dick tracylouisedick@gmail.com. Deadlines coming up:
Sunday 20th September for October newsletter

Sunday 18th October for November newsletter – this will include a review of our final services.

Sunday 22nd November for December newsletter – this will include Christmas greetings. (FINAL EDITION)

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.

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

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