

CROSSGATES METHODIST CHURCH

November 2026 Newsletter

MINISTER: Rev Janet Titterton

Travelling to the New

Dear Friends,

What a wonderful service we shared together at Cross Gates, as we remembered and gave thanks for all the worship, fellowship and witness in our church buildings over almost 150 years. There were so many happy memories shared, great music and singing, and God was praised and glorified in that place one last time.

Our guest speaker, Barbara Easton, gave us a reflection on Ecclesiastes 3: “There is a time for everything”. The reading ends “God has made everything beautiful in its own time. He has placed eternity in the human heart”. In its time, Cross Gates Methodist Church was a beautiful thing to see and to be part of. But now it is time to do something beautiful for God and with God in different places. It is time to see a bigger picture: a picture of God at work in other places and people.

In the few weeks that have passed since our closing service, it has been a wonderful surprise for me to arrive at my churches and see different faces in the congregation, as members from Cross Gates have ventured out to join friends in other places of worship. I know that those churches have been delighted to see them. Already new relationships are being created.

God has set eternity in our hearts. Each one of us has a God-given longing to seek God, to worship God and to know God in a deep way: a way that transcends our human buildings and structures and organisations.

Isaiah says, “Seek the Lord while He may be found.” Whether your journey to find a new way of worshipping is a short one or a long one, wherever journey’s end may be, you can be sure that God will be there

waiting for you, just as He has been all the days of your life. His goodness and mercy follow us all from the old as we travel to the new.

I pray God's peace and presence with you all as you seek His face.

Yours, Rev Janet

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS!

Why not send Christmas greetings to your friends from Cross Gates via this newsletter for one final time.

You will reach everyone from Cross Gates Methodist Church as this final December newsletter will still be sent out via email and in paper form. Plus, you'll save money on cards and postage. Your messages will be printed in the December edition of the newsletter.
The deadline for messages is **Sunday 22nd November.**
They can be sent to Tracy Dick via:
Email: tracylouisedick@gmail.com

If you would like to make a charitable donation in lieu of cards as previously, then please make one to a charity of your own choice as we no longer have a means of collecting the money now Church has closed.

MEMORIES OF CHRISTMAS AT CROSS GATES METHODIST CHURCH

If you have some Christmas memories of fun times at Church, then please do share them so they can feature in the last newsletter.

You can send them to Tracy Dick by Email.

A message from our Senior Steward

So many people have been in touch with me to say how much they enjoyed the last services we had at Cross Gates on the 27th September. I

think the whole day, the morning service and the afternoon songs of praise were a fitting tribute to a great Church and a huge number of faithful people over many years. Lots of people had a hand in arranging these services and we are very grateful to everyone. Meeting Point café did us proud with the food. I would like to thank everyone who played a part in a really memorable day.

We are all very sad at the loss of our Church, and the people who we have come to love who have attended over the years. It is no good thinking we could have done things differently as I must confess I have, we must be thankful for the 100 plus years that our Cchurch has born witness to our Lord Jesus Christ and been such a powerful Christian presence in Cross Gates.

We need to let Rev. Janet know which Church we want our membership to be transferred to. You can phone or email her, but she has said there is no rush. I am attending all the Churches in our section before deciding. As Rev. Janet has said, it is not the building that makes a Church but the people, and that is at the forefront of my mind at the moment.

On behalf of John and Cedric, I would like to say a huge thank for our gifts. The picture will have pride of place in all our houses. We will never forget the people we have known at Church and hope to see lots of you around Cross Gates.

I am happy for any of you who want to keep my contact number to do so. Just leave a message if I do not answer and I will return your call.

Lots of Love and prayers Barbara

Church Council Meeting

The Cross Gates Church Council met for the final time on Tuesday 20th October. Responsibility for the buildings and all other matters has now formally passed to the Circuit. A sub group of the Circuit led by Ted Britton and including some members from Cross Gates will now deal with all matters relating to Cross Gates Methodist Church.

Church Flowers

Barbara Leeming and Georgina Cressey thank everyone who helped with decorating our Church with flowers for our final service and harvest festival. The Church looked fantastic and we were so pleased to have

Barwick in Elmet flower ladies to help us with the decorating. Thank you to all who were involved.
Donations towards the cost of the flowers were received from:
Beryl Gledhill, **Ann Johnson**, **Shirley Clough**, **Joan Chorley**, **Christine Holdstock** and the remainder of the money in the flower fund.
It all made a fantastic display thank you all again.
We wish everyone all the best as we all travel on different paths, seeking new places of worship and making new friends.
May God go with you on your journeys to new places.
Georgina and Barbara.

We would all like to thank Georgina, Barbara and the ladies previously on the flower rota for beautifying our Church each week over very many years.

Table Top Sales – 7th November & 5th December 9.30am – 12:00

Why not join us for a drink, a breakfast bap and a chat. Then stroll round the sale to pick up a bargain.
If you would like more information or to book a table, at a cost of £5 for Church funds, please contact John Smith on 0779 9094472.
Come along and pick up a bargain!

Ladies Friendship Group

Meetings are held at **2.30pm** in the Coffee Room in the Church Hall building on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month. *All welcome*

Date	**Speaker/event**
27/10/2026	"History of Crossgates Methodist Church" – Christine Holdstock
10/11/2026	Beetle Drive with Carol
November	Meal with Wednesday group – date to be confirmed
24/11/2026	Bingo with Carol
08/12/2026	Christmas carols and readings

A Selection of Services in November from around the Circuit

Barwick-in-Elmet

1st November	10.30am		Mrs Janice Green
8th November	11.15	Ecumenical	***At All Saints***
15th November	10.30am		Revd Steven Jones
22nd November	10.30am		Mr Grenville Jensen
29th November	10.30am	Holy Communion Toy Service	Revd Nigel Wright

Christ Church

1st November	10.30am		Revd Angela Hughes
8th November	10.30am		Revd Janet Titterton
15th November	10.30am	Holy Communion	Dr Nicola Robinson
22nd November	10.30am		Mr Tom Ferguson
29th November	10.30am	Joint Service	Revd Janet Titterton

Colton

1st November	10.30am		Mr Paul Spencer
8th November	10.30am		Revd Norma Davey
15th November	10.30am		Revd Janet Titterton
22nd November	10.30am		Mr Andy Birkett
29th November		Joint Service	***At Christchurch***

Garforth

1st November	10.30am	All Age Service	Mrs Susan Howdle
1st November	3pm	Memorial Service	Revd Janet Titterton
8th November	10.30am		Mrs Hazel Featherstone
15th November	10.30am	Starting Together & JMA	Mrs Naomi Polson
22nd November	10.30am	Holy Communion	Revd Janet Titterton
29th November	10.30am	Joint Service	***At Christchurch***

Scholes

1st November	10.30am		Revd Janet Titterton
8th November	10.30am	Holy Communion	Revd Steven Jones
15th November	10.30am		Mr Michael Prince
22nd November	10.30am		Mrs Hazel Featherstone
29th November	10.30am	Joint Service	***At Christchurch***

Money Raised

Over the summer, the Table Top sales held outside Church raised £424.05. It was agreed that this money would be split between Action for Children (£200.00) and Meeting Point (£224.05).

At our last service on 27th September a further £341.23 was collected for Meeting Point, making a grand total of £565.28 for them.

Thank you to everyone who organised the sales and to those who gave so generously to these worthy causes.
Alison Lambert, Treasurer

Leeds South & East Foodbank
(helping local people in crisis)

Items delivered to the Leeds South and East Food Bank in September included cereal, UHT milk, rice pudding, tinned potatoes, baked beans, tinned vegetables, tinned fruit, porridge and biscuits. As well as the above, the gifts at our Harvest Service were donated to The Meeting Point Cafe - who do such a great job in and around Harehills.

Five people - *who give me money to spend on their behalf, or I collect things from their homes* - have indicated they would like to continue with donations to the Food Bank.
I have agreed to continue collecting up to the end of the year, by which time most members will have transferred to other Churches and other arrangements can be made. ***John Best***

Thank you to everyone who has given so generously and so regularly to the Foodbank collection over the years and thank you to John Best for facilitating this initiative. **We hope you will feel able to continue supporting the Foodbank via the collection points in various supermarkets.**

East Leeds Repair Café
Saturday 21st November, 11am – 2pm

Come along to the Church Hall and receive free, expert assistance to repair household items and reduce waste. Volunteers with diverse skills in areas like electronics, textiles and furniture help fix items while sharing their knowledge with attendees, fostering community and sustainability.

Lumb Brass Plaque

I have done some research (using Find-my-past) into Joseph and Isabella Lumb, who have a memorial plaque dedicated to them on the Church wall.

They were married in 1859, and I have found them on the censuses (produced every 10 years) from 1861 to 1891. None of these censuses show that they had any children. In 1881 and 1891 they had a nephew called Joseph Bailey living with them. I have also looked for him on the records. He married in 1889, but censuses for 1891 to 1911 do not show any children.

On page 11 of the Cross Gates Methodist Church Jubilee booklet (1932) it says:

"Here should be recorded a loss which the Church sustained in the passing of two most striking personalities: Mrs Isabella Lumb died on December 8th, 1899, and her husband Mr Joseph Lumb, on March 17th 1900. Both had belonged to that little band of worshippers in the thatched cottage; both had been ardent workers in the movement for the building of the first Chapel, and indeed during the whole of the 17 years which had since lapsed, and both were ever generous in their gifts. Mrs Lumb presided over the Ladies' Sewing Meeting and appears to have been a lady of remarkable energy, tact and common sense. Though somewhat of a ruler, it is said that there was never any friction under her. Apparently, she possessed distinct driving power, which she consistently applied with grace. Mr Lumb was of a quiet, retiring disposition, but he was a devoted worker; he was the first Treasurer of the Trust.
In memory of them and in appreciation of their work, the Trustees, Officers and Friends erected a Brass Tablet on the west wall of the nave Of the Church, which was unveiled on November 11th, 1901, by Mr J. H. Holford."
Christine Holdstock

Other Plaques in our Church: as you know Christine has undertaken a lot of research into the war memorial plaques in our Church and has shared the stories of those brave men in this newsletter. As our Church closes, she has now taken responsibility for the plaques, and what should happen to them. This is not yet clear but please be assured Christine will find a suitable home for them.

This Newsletter

Please send contributions for this Newsletter to Tracy Dick.
Email: tracylouisedick@gmail.com
Final deadlines coming up:
Sunday 22nd November for the December edition – this will include Christmas greetings (FINAL EDITION)

Condolences: to the family and friends of Mary Curl who died recently. Her funeral will be held on Wednesday 28th October at 2pm at Colton Methodist Church.
To the family and friends of David Cowper who died recently. His funeral will be held at Chapel Allerton Methodist Church at 1.30pm on 9th November.

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. You'll find links to articles, blogs and films – all from the comfort of your armchair! Sign up at **methodist.org.uk/SignUp**

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