



CROSSGATES METHODIST CHURCH November 2025 Newsletter

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Remembering

Remember, remember the 5th of November. November is the month of remembering. All Saints Day and All Souls Day are quickly followed by Remembrance Sunday. We hold our annual Memorial services to spend some time remembering those we have loved and lost.

To remember is to bring something out of the storage unit of our mind into the business part – like bringing out an old teapot from the back of the cupboard to use it once again. Doing this can stir up all kinds of emotions. Our memories can bring smiles, laughter and tears, or guilt and regret; we can use our memories of people and places in a negative way or a positive way.

Our memories can lead us to become nostalgic, to long for the Good Old Days to come again, or to accept that those days, good as they were, are gone. That realisation may encourage us to take action, to make a positive difference and to do something for the future.

Memories of a rubbish holiday might make us determined not to go there again!

Memories of a breakdown in a relationship might make us determined to behave differently in future.

Memories of one we have loved might help us to decide to be more like them, to reflect all that we learned from them in our own lives.

Remembrance is at the heart of our Christian life – as we remember Jesus in our Communion bread and the wine. As we offer our own memories before God each November, God challenges us to learn from them and to look with hope towards the future.

To remember is not simply a passive moment of recollection – but an invitation to go forward in the company of the Lord who never forgets us, but has our names written on the palm of His mighty hand. May God richly bless you in this season of remembering.

With my love and prayers, Rev Janet

November Services

2nd November	Holy Communion	Rev Janet Titterton
9th November	Remembrance Sunday	Mr Tom Ferguson
16th November		Mr Ted Britton
23rd November	Sunday before Advent	Rev Steven Jones
23 rd November	Circuit Service – 4pm	Venue TBC
30 th November	Advent 1	At Christ Church

The communion stewards for November are Cynthia Best & Georgina Cressey.

Church Flowers

We have been very fortunate to have received many generous donations this last month, and Georgina and Barbara thank everyone for their kind support which allows fresh flowers to be arranged each week in Church.

The 5th September was sponsored by **Carol in memory of her Dad**.
The 12th September was sponsored by **Roy & Georgina in memory of Roy's Mum**.

The 19th September flowers were for the funerals of **Mabel Armitage and John Robinson**.

On 28th September Pauline Hudson kindly arranged the flowers for the main stand and the entrance. Thank you, Pauline for the beautiful displays. Georgina did the window flowers.

The 3rd October flowers were sponsored by **Pearl Fields in celebration of her birthday**.

The 10th October flowers were in memory of **John Smith's Mum**.

Finally on 24th October flowers will be sponsored by **Myra Rowlands in memory of her youngest nephew**, who died 7th August after struggling through years of illness.

If you would like to sponsor fresh flowers arrangements in Church, please contact Georgina Cressey (0113 294 4906) or Barbara Leeming (0113 281 3554).

Thank you all for your support.

A Request for Help

As most people know already, our hard working and dedicated Senior Steward Barbara Lloyd has stepped back from her duties at Church to care for her seriously ill husband, Michael. I know that everyone is holding them both in their thoughts and prayers.

Until now, many of us hadn't realised quite how much Barbara was undertaking to keep our Church running smoothly so we find that our other Stewards, Cedric Robinson and John Blyth, are under increased pressure just as we are approaching the busy Advent and Christmas periods.

Please consider if you could help in any way and ask Cedric and John for further information about what is needed. This could be taking on responsibility for a whole task or being willing to be called on when needed to fill a gap.

We are grateful to Deborah Carter for becoming deputy Safeguarding Officer and assisting Barbara with this task and to Amanda Brow who is leading on data protection and GDPR for the time being.

Our Minister, Janet, has responsibility for five Churches so we must be largely self sufficient in the running of our Church. Please do consider whether you could contribute a little extra time if you are able.

The Table Top Café

The monthly café which takes place alongside the Table Top sales on the first Saturday of every month has been a staple of our Church life for many years. It provides a welcome cuppa and refreshments to customers and stallholders as well as raising much needed funds.

Our heartfelt thanks go to Elizabeth Hartley and Graeme Bentley who have run the much-loved café and provided a listening ear to many in Cross Gates for so long. Sadly both Elizabeth and Graeme are standing down after the December Table Top.

If you are interested in taking up the reins or **leading a rota** of the 'willing' then please have a chat with one of the Stewards or Lynda Robinson in the first instance.

PS Although Elizabeth and Graeme have provided delicious cooked food; something more simple would also be very welcome, so please don't be deterred!

Table Top Sales – 1st November & 6th December

9.30am – 12noon

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!

Monday Coffee Morning - 10am – 11.30am

Please come and join us each Monday in the Church Hall. Coffee, snacks and a listening ear are on offer.

Ladies Friendship Group

Meetings are at **2.30pm** in the Wesley Room on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month. In November that means meetings will take place on 11/11/25 and 25/11/25. *All welcome.*

Men's Fellowship

Meetings are at **2.30pm** in the Wesley Room on the first and third Tuesdays of the month. In November there will be meetings on
4/11/25 – Pie & Peas and a Quiz (Alan Tate)
18/11/25 – Now and Then, Norway, Part 2 (Roy Cressey)
All welcome.

East Leeds Repair Café

Saturday 15th 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.

East Leeds History & Archaeology Society

Methodist Church Hall Austhorpe Road, Cross Gates

Friday 31st October 2.00pm

‘Down the Aisles of History’ by Ms Dorothy Schofield
(this talk is about some prominent Leeds families)

Friday 28th November 2.00pm

Illustrated talk by Ms Jane Ellis entitled ‘The Walmsleys of Robin Hoods Bay, Father and Son, Artist and Writer’

Admission £2.00. All welcome

CHRISTMAS IS COMING!

Greetings

Why not send Christmas greetings to the Church family via this newsletter and support Action for Children at the same time. You will reach everyone and save money on cards and postage. In return for a small donation your messages will be printed in the December edition of the newsletter. The deadline for messages is **Sunday 23rd November** and can be sent to Tracy via any of these methods below. Donations should be brought to a Church service (clearly separated from your collection) or posted to Church. Tracy Dick tracylouisedick@gmail.com or phone 0113 264 3788 or write to 5 Manston Gardens, Leeds, LS15 8EY

Festive Fundraising

This year we won't be having a Christmas Fair but that doesn't mean we won't be trying to raise some much-needed funds for Church around November and December time.

Lynda Robinson will be running fundraising tables at the Table Top sales on 1st November and 6th December. **Please can you help?**

Do you have unwanted items that can be sold or be offered as prizes in a tombola? Plus, Lynda could do with some help on the day to run the stalls. Please contact her for further information.

If you unable to help with time or items, would you consider adding a little extra to your collection during December? Our Church finances mean that we will miss the boost the Christmas Fair has traditionally provided.

Christmas Dates for your Diary

Sat 1 st November	9.30 – 12 noon	Fundraising at Table Top Sale
Sun 23 rd November		Deadline for Christmas Greetings
Sat 6 th December	9.30 – 12 noon	Fundraising at Table Top Sale
Sun 21 st December	10.30am	Carol Service
Sun 21 st December	3pm	Crib Service aimed at children but all welcome
Tues 23 rd December	11am	Singing on the Church steps. <i>All welcome.</i>
Wed 24 th December	11.30pm	Holy Communion Service
Thur 25 th December	11am	Christmas Day Service

The Story of A South African Methodist Chapel

Whilst on holiday in South Africa last month my husband and I visited a Methodist Chapel in Cape Town. This is its story:

Buitenkant Street Methodist Chapel

In 1883 a large wine store was purchased on the corner of Buitenkant and Albertus Streets and converted into a place of worship for the descendants of former slaves.

Buitenkant Methodist Church (as it was known) served the people of District Six and was a thriving congregation until District Six was declared a *White Group Area* in 1966. Thousands of people were forcibly removed from their homes, including most members of the Buitenkant Street congregation. During this time of upheaval, the congregation participated in the growing resistance to *Apartheid* and in particular to the destruction of District Six. A *Plaque of Shame* was mounted on the church building to remind passersby of the injustice that had taken place (the plaque is still in place).

Despite attempts to break the spirit of the people through forced removals, detention and harassment, the congregation continued to commute from the suburbs to Buitenkant Street on Sundays and a lively congregation of more than 100 people still worshipped regularly in the late 1980s. The congregation never lost its passion for caring for people, and in 1976 the Stepping Stones Children's Centre was started to cater for the children of working parents. In later years the Church was a venue for many anti-apartheid meetings.

Today the Buitenkant Street Church complex accommodates a number of outreach projects to the people of the city, including the Ons Piek Shelter for Female Street Children, Stepping Stones Children's Centre and the District Six Museum.

Apart from worship services, Buitenkant Street Church has been the venue for protest and other community events. Buitenkant Street was regarded by many as a place of sanctuary during the turbulent 1980s. Families of detainees and victims of police brutality were offered sanctuary whilst trade unions and other community-based organisations used the venue for public meetings. The last worship service was held in December 1987.

Tracy Dick

Throwback to November 1969, Throwback to Nov 1969

We continue to look back at the pieces Ministers wrote in the 60s, 70s and 80s for the newsletters of the time. How much has changed and how much remains the same?

My dear friends

The themes of our services in November make their own point. Taken together, they underline what our 'good news' really is.

We begin with all the Christians who have gone before us. So often we are told that the Church is in decline or on its last legs that we seem to be losing confidence. This is the one thing that the Church can never lose. All the saints declare that the Church which is militant is also triumphant. We begin in the confidence of victory.

A week later there are other victories and other sacrifices to remember. There is also the memory of the murder of the millions and the fact that our world still has no peace. How do you make peace in a world like this?

Citizenship makes us look nearer to home too. It is concerned with every aspect of our daily life – home, marriage, industry and government, the elderly, the young, all social questions. What does a modern Christian DO?

At our Church anniversary we shall renew our dedication to be the Church in this time and place. A special leaders conference will have worked out some of the things we need to be doing.

Then suddenly we are at the beginning of Advent. Now it makes real sense. God has a purpose for His creation, a purpose revealed in His Son – and God is with us.

All this is true for the Church – it is also true for you. Confidence, peace, wholeness, purpose, fulfilment – all begin here – for you. All the saints were ordinary people who proved that the faith works, and God keeps His promises.

In Christ you will find the promises fulfilled.

Rev Kenneth Taylor

Throwback to November 1969, Throwback to Nov 1969

Condolences: to the family and friends of Mrs Joan Akeroyd who sadly passed away, aged 92 on Sunday 5th October. She will be greatly missed but has had a long and happy life surrounded by a loving family and friends. Our thoughts are with Janet, Alison, Jackie and families.

Congratulations: to Dorothy Weston who will shortly be celebrating her 90th birthday with a ride over Yorkshire in a light aircraft, accompanied by her Grandson. She has promised to write an article about her experience for us!

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.

After Church Coffee: Please do join us for a hot drink and fellowship after each morning service. The rota for November is: 2nd Linda Booth & John Best, 9th Carol Smith & Neil Smith, 16th David Barrett & Neil Smith, 23rd Pauline Hudson & Neil Smith, 30th No service at Cross Gates (joint service at Christchurch)

Your Financial Contributions: Thank you to all those who contribute to the Church's running costs. If you do not attend Church, please send them to the Church's address. If you would like to change to contributing via **standing order** please get in touch with Amanda Brow. She can be contacted by phone on 07733 103511 or email amandajbrow@gmail.com

Leeds South & East Foodbank: Items can be brought each Sunday but as always collection can be arranged via John Best.

If you are able to donate, please contact John Best (01132 647283) or email jvbest39@hotmail.com who will gladly collect from you.

Newsletter: If you have any ideas for articles or particular subjects you would like to see covered in this newsletter, please contact Tracy. Please email any contributions for the Newsletter to Tracy Dick tracylouisedick@gmail.com or phone 0113 264 3788 or write to 5 Manston Gardens, Leeds, LS15 8EY.

Deadlines coming up: Deadlines coming up: Sunday 23rd November (for December and January editions), Sunday 17th January 2025.

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