



CROSSGATES METHODIST CHURCH Dec & Jan 2025/6 Newsletter

MINISTER: Rev Janet Titterton

Dear Friends, I know that you will be reading this in the Advent season. So I wonder how you feel about all the special Christmas adverts that we are bombarded with throughout Advent? Do you enjoy them? Or do they annoy you? Which ones do you like?

Do you like John Lewis' nostalgic Dad? Boots' Puss in Boots?
Sainsbury's BFG?

My favourite is probably Kevin the Carrot, from Aldi.

Kevin the Carrot has been around for 10 years now, believe it or not. He's a special carrot who gets into the most amazing adventures. But in real life the carrot is perhaps the most ordinary and everyday British vegetable. Humble, we might say. Easily overlooked and, when we come to make our Christmas dinner, perhaps taken for granted, as we concentrate on the more special and unusual ingredients.

Surely Kevin the Carrot is what the message of Christmas is all about. Jesus came into the world of the ordinary and the commonplace, to the people who are often overlooked and taken for granted. And yet all are special in the eyes of God.

The Christmas story reminds us that God chose the ordinary things of life – the poor and the lowly – to take part in the miracle of the incarnation. He could have chosen a palace, but he chose a stable. He could have chosen a princess, but he chose a normal everyday girl. He could have chosen the great and the good, but he chose you and me to love and to save. We all have our small part to play in the great story of salvation.

When you peel your carrots for Christmas dinner this year, remember that God sees, loves and cares for the poor, the ordinary and the everyday. Which means that God loves and cares for you.

Barry and I wish you all a happy, peaceful and blessed Christmas and New Year. ***With love and prayers, Rev Janet***

Church Flowers

On 7th November flowers were donated by John & Cynthia Best in memory of **Alison**.

Entrance ones were arranged for Remembrance Sunday.

Sunday 14th November flowers were donated by Deborah in memory of her mum **Jean Tingle**.

These were carried over for the funeral of **Betty Christian** on the Monday.

Barbara Leeming is kindly making the Advent ring which will be in Church for 7th December.

Christmas flowers will be artificial, so they last over Christmas and will be donated and arranged by Georgina in memory of both **her and Roy's families** both past and present. Some of whom were lost over the Christmas period.

Barbara and Georgina both thank everyone for their donations over the year and wish everyone a happy, peaceful and healthy New Year.

If you would like to sponsor flower arrangements in Church, please contact Georgina Cressey or Barbara Leeming ***Thank you all for your support.***

Financial Update from The Treasurer

As you are all aware, attendance at Church has fallen over the last 5 years and consequently the income from our weekly offerings, which is used to pay our assessment to the Circuit. Our Reserves have steadily reduced, and we have now reached a point where we no longer have sufficient funds available to meet our assessment for this Church year. Linda Booth, the Property Treasurer, offered to help out paying the assessment from property funds, however a larger than expected bill to repair the Church roof over the summer means these funds are no longer available.

On December 1st there will be an extraordinary meeting of the Church Council to discuss the current financial situation. The Superintendent of the Circuit & the Circuit Treasurer will be at the meeting to give us advice and guidance. I will keep you updated with the outcome of the meeting and if you have any questions or concerns in the meantime, please do not hesitate to speak to me. ***Alison Lambert, Church Treasurer***

CHRISTMAS TABLE TOP SALE

SATURDAY 6TH DECEMBER, 9.30AM – 2PM

Gifts, books, bric-a-brac and much more

Are you still looking for that Christmas gift? Why not come along and look around our stalls selling a wide range of items?

Refreshments (teacakes, breakfast sandwiches, tea & coffee)

Free entry (cash only, no cards taken)

Ladies Friendship Group

Meetings are held at 2.30pm in the Wesley Room on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month (unless otherwise stated). *All welcome.*

25/11/25 - Oasis Relief: providing safe, clean water in Zambia

(Mary Patchett)

09/12/25 – Carols, Readings & Mince Pies (with Men's Fellowship)

16/12/25 – **1pm** Christmas Lunch (with Men's Fellowship)

23/12/25 – No Meeting

13/01/26 – Now & Then Norway, part 2 (Roy Cressey)

27/01/26 - Bring and Buy - Auction for Charity

Men's Fellowship

Meetings are at 2.30pm in the Wesley Room on the first and third Tuesdays of the month (unless otherwise stated). *All Welcome.*

02/12/25 – Safeguarding – What Safeguarding? (John Best)

09/12/25 – Carols, Readings & Mince Pies (Joint with Ladies Friendship)

16/12/25 – **1pm** Christmas Meal (Joint with Ladies Friendship)

06/01/26 – Cross Gates Past & Present (Bill Ineson)

20/01/26 – Music Show (John Blyth)

East Leeds History & Archaeology Society

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

Monday Coffee Morning

Please come and join us each Monday in the Church Hall between 10:00am and 11:30am. Warming drinks, toasted teacakes and crumpets on offer plus a listening ear if you need one.

The Table Top Café - Thanks

A very grateful thank you to Elizabeth and Graeme for the time and work they have given to preparing the excellent food and drinks. Also, a special thank you for the friendly atmosphere and the chance to chat for customers and stall-holders. I have happy memories of these mornings.

Beryl Gledhill



Christmas Greetings

To the Church Family - with best wishes for a happy and blessed Christmas.

Beryl Gledhill

Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all. **Jennie Reeve**

Alan and Dorothy Tate wish the Church family a happy Christmas and a healthy New Year.

Pam Wilcox sends Christmas blessings to all friends and Church family.

Wishing all our friends at Cross Gates a very Happy Christmas and a healthy and Peaceful New Year. **Geoff and Margaret Yapp**

To all my church family, I wish you all a very merry Christmas and a wonderful new year. **Denise and Mick Durkin**

John and Cynthia Best wish all their friends at church a very Peaceful Christmas and every blessing in 2026.

Wishing the Church family a Happy Christmas and healthy New Year, **Amanda Brow**

Carol, John and Neil Smith wish everyone a happy, healthy and peaceful New Year.

Wishing the Church family a very happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year, **Jean Drake**

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, **Alison and Jodie Marr**

All the best and hope you all have a Happy Christmas and New Year, **Paul, Clare and Tiffany Coleman**

Cedric and Lynda Robinson send Christmas greetings to all the Church family and wish everyone a Happy and Peaceful New Year. Best wishes for Christmas and the New Year from **Christine and Richard Holdstock**.

Georgina and Roy Cressey wish everyone a happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

Keith Westbrooke wishes everybody a happy and healthy Christmas and New Year.

Merry Christmas to all our friends at Church. We hope it is a happy and peaceful time for you all. Lots of love, **Jane & Holly Wiles**.
Wishing everyone a peaceful Christmas and a happy and healthy 2026. **Tracy, Aleck and Jessica Dick**

(Please forgive any errors or omissions in the greetings)

Many thanks for all your generous donations to Action for Children in lieu of sending cards. We will report back in a future edition on how much was donated.

Thank You..........to all those who work so hard to keep our Church running smoothly. It takes a team to achieve so much, and we are all very grateful to those who undertake tasks, big and small.

After Church Coffee

Neil Smith is moving on from Cross Gates Methodist Church and so will no longer be organising the Sunday morning coffee rota. He sent the following message: *I would like to say a big thank you to all the volunteers that have helped me with this ministry over the last few years. It is much appreciated.*

Editor's note: many thanks to Neil for setting up this initiative and best wishes to him for the future.

The after-Church coffee is greatly appreciated by everyone, and we are so pleased that John and Cynthia have volunteered to take on the task of organizing it.

Thankfully everyone on the rota is happy to continue.

The rota for the next two months is: Dec 7th – Georgina Cressey & Cynthia Best, Dec 14th Carol Smith & John Best, Dec 21st Linda Booth & Cynthia Best, Dec 28th Pauline Hudson & John Best, Jan 4th John & Cynthia Best, Jan 11th Carol Smith & Cynthia Best, Jan 18th Margaret Saysell & John Best, Jan 25th David Barrett & Cynthia Best.

Table Top Sales – 7th February & 7th March 2026

9.30am – 12 noon Why not come along for a drink and a chat and then browse round all the items for sale. You might just find 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 904472.

Come along and pick up a bargain!

Daring Dorothy

On Sunday 2nd November I and my grandson Lewis, now seventeen, took to the skies in a light aircraft to celebrate my 90th birthday. We flew over York Minister and the Vale of York and up to the Humber Bridge which we circled then returned on a slightly different route so we could fly over Selby Abbey. It was a glorious morning, and we both enjoyed the trip very much. I was even allowed to take over the controls for a few minutes during the flight. The most challenging part of the journey was getting me out of the plane at the end! I had to shuffle from the cockpit onto the wing, then slide down the wing and was helped at the bottom.

Dorothy Weston

Goodbye to ELHAS

The East Leeds History and Archaeology Society (ELHAS) will hold its final meeting on 28th November 2025 in the Methodist Church Hall, Austhorpe Road. The society began in January of 1998 originally based in Cross Gates Library. Within a short time however monthly meetings were moved to the Methodist Church Hall, thus beginning a long relationship which lasted over 25 years.

Having established the East Leeds Heritage Centre in the library, this room was used to run local and family history courses, host school visits and provide an information point for people with local history queries. It also housed exhibitions featuring local interest subjects and stored the society's archives and library.

Over the years the Society played its part in the community by holding open days and running stalls in both the library and the shopping centre using these as opportunities to sell their publications such as The Leeds History Journal and various one off booklets like Smeaton of Austhorpe. Perhaps the proudest achievement of the society has been the promotion of the "Barnbow Lasses" story – making the whole city aware of the contribution these munitions workers made to the war effort in World War One and documenting the tragedy which occurred there in 1916. The Society's efforts in this area have resulted in two memorials, a play and roads in a local housing development named after the victims of the accident.

It has been a privilege and a pleasure to be involved in the Society for so many years, but sadly the time has come to step back. We are grateful for the opportunities which it has afforded us and thankful to have made so many friends, friendships which we hope will endure.

Jacki & Bob Lawrence

Everyone at Cross Gates Methodist Church wishes them both the very best of health and much happiness in the future.

Condolences:

To the family and friends of Betty Christian on her death.

To Sylvia Wright and family on the death of her husband Derek.

To the family and friends of May Brook who had died aged 101.

To the family and friends of Bill Baines who died on 11th 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.

Thanks: The family of Betty Christian would like to thank everyone who helped at Betty's funeral last Monday. John wanted to thank Georgina for sorting the flowers (and he has made a donation to the flower fund) to Carol for co-ordinating the refreshments, the Stewards, kitchen ladies and everyone who helped. John also wanted to thank everyone for their generous donations which will be divided between St Gemma's Hospice and the NSPCC.

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 email amandajbrow@gmail.com

Donation Thanks: Carol Lockwood from Seacroft Friends & Neighbours thanked the Church family for the donation of £100. The money will be used as part of their Winter warm provision.

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

Deadlines coming up: Deadlines coming up: Sunday 17th January 2026.

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

Services in December 2025

Sun 7th Dec	10.30am	Holy Communion	Revd Janet Titterton
Sun 14th Dec	10.30am		Mr John Summerwill
Sun 21 st Dec	10.30am	Carol Service	Miss Mary Patchett
Sun 21st Dec	4pm NB change of time	Crib Service – aimed at children but all welcome	Revd Steven Jones
Tues 23 rd Dec	11am	Singing on Church steps. <i>All welcome</i>	
Weds 24 th Dec	11.30pm	Holy Communion	Revd Steven Jones
Thurs 25 th Dec	11am	All Age Worship	Revd Janet Titterton
Sun 28th Dec	10.30am	Joint Service	At Christ Church

The Communion Stewards for December are Carol Smith & John Blyth

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

Many thanks for all who contributed to our Churches monthly donation in October, for 131Kg of food and sundries. As the cold weather approaches and with the continued rise in food prices, our contribution becomes more and more critical.

As we approach Christmas it would be great for Children to have sweets/chocolate in their parcels - as well as food. Can you help?

There is a basket for your gifts in the Galilee or John Best email jvbest39@hotmail.com who will gladly collect.

Services in January 2026

4 th January	10.30am	Covenant Service with Holy Communion	Revd Janet Titterton
11 th January	10.30am		Mrs Hazel Featherstone
18th January	10.30am		Mrs Susan Howdle
25 th January	10.30am	Circuit Project Service	Deacon Adelha Da Silva

The communion steward for January are Carol Smith & John Blyth