



CROSSGATES METHODIST CHURCH Newsletter March 2023

MINISTER: Rev Helen White

Spring is in the air

As I contemplate March, my mind turns to daffodils. Why? Well, they are associated with March as they are the flower of Wales – St David's day begins the month, they are also known as the Lent lily – apparently because they bloom through Lent and drop their flowers before Easter (I guess that depends a bit on the variety and when Easter falls). I can see the promise of daffodils when I'm out – in the grass verges and in people's gardens. Sometime in March that promise should be fulfilled. The promise of what's to come keeps me going on the dark, dull days of winter.

From the depths of winter with its plain earth and bare branches comes new life. It brings joy to my heart to see the new life and its beauty. Just like the many clumps of snowdrops that are out, with their promise that spring is on its way. Before long, plain grassy banks and empty borders will have sprouted patches of purple, white and yellow. Bare branches will carry different shades of pink. Yes – I know that this happens every year, but it still strikes me afresh when I see it. March also brings us to Passiontide and Holy Week. We'll be approaching Easter and the fulfilment of the promise that was there in Jesus' birth and ministry. The new life, the new way of living, which Jesus demonstrated, finds its end and beginning, its fulfilment, in the suffering of Good Friday and in Easter Sunday's glorious resurrection. What I see around me as spring approaches, speaks to me of what we celebrate at Easter. From what seems dead – bulbs, bare branches, brown earth – comes new life – blossom, leaves, flowers.

From the agony of the cross, the despair of the sealed tomb comes new life. Jesus died – but he is alive. And because he lives – death is defeated

– we too have new life in him. This is our joy and hope as we face death. Jesus has died – but he is risen. Death has lost and love has won. May you know the blessing of God’s presence in death and in life. **Helen**

March Services

3 March – 2.00pm	World Day of Prayer	St James Church, Seacroft, LS14 6JT
5 March – 10.30am	Holy Communion	Revd Helen White
5 March – 4pm	Circuit Service	@ Cross Gates
12 March – 10.30am		Miss Mary Patchett
19 March – 10.30am	Mothering Sunday	Dr Stanley Pearson
26 March – 10.30am	Passion Sunday	Mr John Summerwill

Communion Stewards are John Blyth & Roy Cressey

World Day of Prayer service, 2pm on 3rd March 2023 at St James Church, Seacroft, Seacroft Green, LS14 6JT

The service for this year has been prepared by the women of Taiwan. The organisers emphasise that though this is an ecumenical international prayer movement led by women, the services are for ALL so everyone is welcome.

If you need further information, please contact Christine Holdstock.

Church Flowers

On Sunday 12th February flowers were donated by Beryl Gledhill **in memory of Ruth, Leslie and Eric.**

On Sunday 26th February flowers were donated by Jenny Reeves **in memory of her Mam and Dad.**

Barbara and Georgina thank you both for your donations to the cost of the flowers. Other flowers were from funerals and a wedding.

If you would like fresh flowers to be arranged in Church for a special reason, for example in memory of a loved one, then please contact Georgina Cressey or Barbara Leeming. Help with the cost is much appreciated.

Location of Church Services

Services in the coldest months (January to March) have been taking place in the Church Hall rather than the Church itself. This was in order to save money on heating costs whilst ensuring we all stay warm.

The arrangement was discussed at the Church Council and it was agreed that there have been advantages and disadvantages to the change. It has been a lot of additional work for our Stewards but the singing sounds better in the smaller space and some have found themselves sitting with new people and making new connections.

From the end of March onwards we will return to Church. In order to maintain the advantages of worshipping in the smaller space everyone is encouraged to sit in the middle pews, closer to the front. The side pews will be roped off for the time being. Please try the new arrangement during April and then pass on your thoughts to one of the Stewards.

Easter Dates

All services will take place in the Church building

2 April 10.30am	Palm Sunday	Revd Helen White Holy Communion
6 April 7.30pm	Maunday Thursday (<i>Colton</i>)	Revd Helen White Holy Communion All welcome
7 April 11am	Good Friday	Churches Together Reading of the Passion
7 April 7.30pm	Good Friday (<i>Christchurch</i>)	Dr Nicola A. Robinson
9 April 9am	Easter Breakfast	Please let a Steward or Denise Durkin if you are attending
9 April 10.30am	Easter Day (all are welcome to stay for coffee after the service)	Mr Andy Birkett

Save the Date: the Church AGM will take place on Sunday 30th April (after the morning service)

Table Top Sales - 4th March & 1st April
9.30am to 12 noon

Why not come along and see the wide variety of items for sale?

If you would like more information or to book a table, at a cost of £5 for church funds, please see Lynda at Church or phone 0779 9094472.

Monday Coffee Morning

Please come and join us between 10:00am and 11:30am if you would like someone to talk to while you enjoy a drink.

Ladies Friendship Group

Meetings are at 2.30pm in the Wesley Room on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month. All welcome

14/03/2023 Handbell ringing

28/03/2023 Jacki & Bob Lawrence – The Barnbow Lassies

Men's Fellowship

Meetings are at 2pm fortnightly in the Wesley Room on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month. All welcome.

Wednesday Group

This will re-start on May 3rd at 2.30pm

Save the Date We hope to organise a social event on Sunday 7th May to celebrate the coronation of King Charles. Please speak to Christine Holdstock if you are willing to help.

East Leeds History & Archaeology Society
Friday 31st March, 2pm

Mike Turpin will present an illustrated talk: 'The Forgotten War – The English Civil War in Yorkshire'. Talks take place in the Methodist Church Hall, Cross Gates and all are welcome. **Admission £2.00**

Leeds South & East Foodbank

helping local people in crisis

The foodbank wrote to us just after Christmas saying: 'We are experiencing a time of great economic turmoil and many more people and families in the local area are needing our services. We are very grateful for your support which helps us continue to provide food for our families. You can bring items to Church or John Best can collect them from you. **If you would like to contribute food/toiletries please contact John Best.**email jvbest39@hotmail.com who will gladly collect.

Thanks for our Charitable Donations

From Action for Children: 'Thank you for your donation of £443.25. To be there for vulnerable children, we rely on amazing people like you. Our vision is that every child and young person has a safe and happy childhood and the foundations they need to thrive. We protect and help young people by providing practical and emotional care and support. We make sure their voices are heard. And we campaign to bring lasting improvements to their lives. None of this would be possible without you. On behalf of the children and families we help, I'd like to say an enormous thank you.'

From the Meeting Point Café: 'I acknowledge with grateful thanks, receipt of the £574.41 raised at your Christmas Fayre and Concert. Cost-of-living pressures continue to increase and their greatest impact is on the poorest in society, such as many of the clients supported by the work of the Meeting Point Café. Thank you for the ongoing support.'

Spotlight on.....

Please consider writing a few words about your life for inclusion in a future Newsletter, as have many of our Church family already. Please send your contribution to Tracy Dick (see the back page for contact details)

- What type of lights did Noah have on the ark? *Floodlights.*
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In Memory

Trevor Chorley and I worked together for many years producing the monthly Church newsletter prior to passing the job over to Tracy. We also were joint leaders of the Wednesday Group for quite a few years. We had lots of laughs and political banter as Trevor had very strong views on certain political matters but it never caused trouble between us.

John and I used to deliver Margaret Rhodes monthly Church newsletter and often we sat in her conservatory chatting and putting the world to rights. Margaret was also a past member of the Cross Gates Rambling Club.

Eric Varley and Irene Sercombe along with Margaret Rhodes were all regular members of the Wednesday Group. Irene loved the quiz nights and Eric spoke at some of the meetings about his childhood and war experiences.

I have many special memories of all these people. **Cynthia Best**

It has been a sad time for me with the death of friends I have shared so much with over the years. Trevor gave lots of happiness with his sense of humour and piano playing combined with his friendly nature. Both Irene and Margaret were good friends. I shared many happy holidays both with Irene then Margaret in England and abroad. Irene and I enjoyed brass band concerts and musical shows. I never managed to beat Irene at any quizzes! I remember enticing Margaret to have a ride on the chairlift in Austria and how she happily came with me to all the outside concerts the local school orchestra gave in the town. Margaret so valued her Church life and all it meant to her. Eric was a special character who always had an interesting or amusing tale to tell. He was a caring gentleman. I knew Ken for a shorter time from when he married my friend Kath. He was a kind and thoughtful gentleman. He and Kath had a few years of care and happiness together. **Beryl Gledhill**

One of many memories of Trevor which I was reminded about by Jan Marr was that he took a few of us in the car into Leeds to do our cycling proficiency on the roof of the Merrion Centre car park. **Amanda Brow**

After I took over this newsletter Trevor used to compliment me on my efforts but would always suggest that I included some jokes so in his memory I have included a few in this newsletter! **Tracy Dick**

- Which Bible character was the best musician? *Samson - he brought the house down.*

Mary Jones

Mary Jones was from a poor family, the daughter of a weaver, who lived at Llanfihangel-y-Pennant, Abergynolwyn, at the foot of Cader Idris near Dolgellau. She was born in December 1784. Her parents were devout Calvinistic Methodists, and she herself professed the Christian faith at eight years of age. Having learned to read in the circulating schools organised by Thomas Charles, it became her burning desire to possess a Bible of her own. The nearest copy was at a farm two miles distant from her little cottage, and there was no copy on sale nearer than Bala – 26 miles (42 km) away; and it was not certain that a copy could be obtained there. Welsh Bibles were scarce in those days. Having saved for six years until she had enough money to pay for a copy, she started one morning in the Spring of 1800 for Bala, and walked the 26 miles over mountainous terrain, barefoot as usual, to obtain a copy from Thomas Charles, the only individual with Bibles for sale in the area. According to one version of the story, Charles told her that all of the copies which he had received were sold or already spoken for. Mary was so distraught that Charles spared her one of the copies which was already promised to another. In another version, she had to wait two days for a supply of Bibles to arrive and was able to purchase a copy for herself and two other copies for members of her family. According to tradition, it was the impression that this visit by Mary Jones left upon him that impelled Charles to propose to the Council of the Religious Tract Society the formation of a Society to supply Wales with Bibles.

Mary later married a weaver named Thomas Jones. She died in 1864 and was buried at the graveyard of Bryn-crug Calvinistic Methodist Chapel.

- How did Joseph make his coffee? *Hebrewd it.*
- Why is Adam considered the fasted person in the Bible? *He came first in the human race.*
- What is a mathematician's favourite book of the Bible? *Numbers.*
- Why did the hawk sit on the Church steeple? *It's a bird of pray.*

Condolences: Our thoughts and prayers are with the family and friends of our much-loved Church member Harry Drake, who died recently. Details of the funeral arrangements will be announced in due course. Please send memories and thoughts of Harry to Tracy Dick for the next newsletter.

Thanks: Trevor Chorley's family would like to thank everyone for their kind thoughts, cards and condolences. The amount raised for the Royal British Legion was £530. Thank you. Joan, Pamela & Helen.

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.

Free phone service to hear prayers and news from the Methodist Church:

Listen to a prayer: 0808 281 2514. Listen to news: 0808 281 2478.

Pastoral message from the President & Vice-President: 0808 281 2695

Content is updated weekly on a Thursday evening.

Service Options: Please do contact Helen if you would like to receive details of worship via email or would like to have printed worship sheets delivered.

Websites: Circuit: www.leedsnandemethodist.org.uk

District: www.yorkshirewestmethodist.org.uk

Your Financial Contributions: Thank you to all those who continue to contribute to the Church's running costs. If you are unable to attend Church in person, please continue sending them to Linda Booth or to the Church's address.

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

Sunday 19th March, Sunday 16th April.

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