



**CROSSGATES
METHODIST
CHURCH
Newsletter
May 2024**

MINISTER: Rev Becki Stennett

Back to the Future

I wonder if you've ever seen the film 'Back to the Future', or either of its sequels? I have to say I love them- gorgeous performances from Michael J Fox and Christopher Lloyd in a ridiculous, fun-filled and at times quite witty romp in which time travel, in an old DeLorean, to the main character's past threatens his entire future, and indeed the future of many others too. If you haven't seen it, I heartily recommend it as a good bit of fun!

Though it's no serious business to watch Back to the Future, I think the theme at its heart probably does offer some helpful reflection on what it means to live in the past, the present, and the future, knowing how past and present decisions can shape the future.

In the days after Jesus is raised from the dead, we see his friends struggling to recall all that was said to them in the past, wondering how to live in this changed present time (both before they know of his resurrection and in the changed present reality when they encounter Christ alive) and then starting to look to a future that is informed by past and present in the light of the risen Christ.

The result is that the church is born: as the people gather together and the Holy Spirit comes at Pentecost, a whole new movement, a new way to follow God is brought into being.

Recently, there have been two occasions, with church projects in different contexts, when it's been important to be realistic about the present, to remember and be inspired by the past, in order to see what the future might bring. One of the most rewarding moments in this was writing the story of Cross Gates Methodist Church as a group- picking out moments from the past that felt significant and learning about how those who have gone before have responded to the call from God to do things differently.

Looking to the past doesn't mean desiring to return to 'the way things were', that golden age we all have in our minds about when Church was 'just brilliant', but it does mean reconnecting with the heritage that has brought us to where we are now. This is a great way to remember God's faithfulness, like the first disciples looking back on the things Jesus had said and done before his death perhaps.

The reality of the present is probably a scarier thing to do, where the possibilities of life or death, growth or decline feel like they are in such delicate balance anything could give at any time. But acknowledging that in the present there are great challenges in our local churches and further afield is important, because then we are able to pray and listen authentically to what God might be saying next, and allow God to bring us back to the future...

We look to a future where God is able to do remarkable things, if only we would trust enough to take the leaps of faith that those before us did. We are not called to be a people who maintain the status quo, or accept an ending we think might be written for us – we are a people who believe that death can be rewritten, and that Christ is alive to prove it so! Let us look to the future, knowing it is shaped by the past and by the present choices we take, but also remembering it is yet to be written, and we can trust God for the days and months and years to come, and we can be ready to take the leaps of faith that will get us to the future God desires for us!

It might not be a future of hoverboards (spoiler alert for the film) but I think the future we are invited to create with God is far more exciting, and I look forward to seeing what God unfolds for us as we move towards it!

Rev Becki

May Services

5 May – 10.30am		Revd Norma Davey
5 May – 4pm	Circuit Service (at Shadwell & on YouTube)	Circuit Staff
9 May – 7.30pm	Ascension Day (at Oakwood)	Revd George Bailey
12 May – 10.30am	Christian Aid Week	Dr Madeleine Andrews
19 May – 10.30am	Pentecost (Holy Communion)	Revd Becki Stennett
26 May – 10.30am		Mr Paul Spencer

Communion Stewards for May are Carol Smith & Georgina Cressey

A message from our Senior Steward

At a meeting recently with Rev Becki and Stewards from her four churches, we did a draft plan for the coming quarter. I think all of us appreciate what a difficult job all the Presbyters have sharing themselves out among their churches. To enable this, we all have to show some flexibility in our expectations of how much they can realistically do. There may be some Sundays when our starting time will not be 10.30. I will make sure you get a good period of notice about this. On occasional Sundays there may not be a morning service at all at Cross Gates and we will be invited to share worship with one of Reverent Becki's other churches. On Harvest Sunday in September, we will not have a morning service; but plan to have a very special service here in the afternoon followed by food and celebration.

The Methodist Conference will be held in Leeds this year on the 30th June. We are going to live stream it and invite our friends from Colton and Garforth to watch it at Cross Gates with us.

All of us are wary of change, but if we are to continue to grow, despite a further reduction in the number of Presbyters in 2025, we need to do everything in our power to support the Ministers we have. Please could I ask you to support us in the changes we have to make.

As Stewards, we are very grateful for all the support you give us.

Love and prayers, Barbara

Church Flowers

The flowers this month have been donated by Jodi and Alison Marr in memory of Bob Jones and Barbara Groves.

Donations have also been received for two weekends in May.

Barbara and Georgina thank all who help with donations for flowers.

Please contact either Georgina or Barbara if you would like flowers for anyone special or to celebrate an occasion and we will try to fit in with the date requested if possible.

Thank you.

After Church Coffee

We are very pleased that we are now able to reinstate coffee after each morning service. Please do join us for a hot drink and fellowship.

The rota for May is:

May 5th – Georgina Cressey & Neil Smith

May 12th – Carol Smith & June Holliday

May 18th – Margaret Saysell & Neil Smith

May 26th – Pam Wilcox & Neil Smith

Table Top Sales – 4th May & 1st June

9.30am to 12noon

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!

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.

14/05/2024 – programme planning and AGM

28/05/2024 – end of term lunch

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 takes place weekly at 2.30pm and will recommence on June 5th.

At this first meeting of the season, Roy Cressey will be giving a talk about 'Reuben Chappell – Pierhead Painter 1870 – 1940.'

All welcome.

East Leeds History & Archaeology Society

Friday 26th April, 2pm

Ann Lightman will deliver an illustrated talk: 'Royal Links in Lawnswood Cemetery'

Friday 31st May 2pm

David Glover will deliver an illustrated talk: "Gentleman Jack" – An introduction to Ann Lister 1791 to 1840.

Talks take place in the Methodist Church Hall, Cross Gates and all are welcome. **Admission £2.00 (including refreshments)**

Leeds South & East Foodbank

In March our Church delivered 118KG (9 baskets) of food to the Leeds South and East distribution centre. The donation contained a wide variety of items including tinned fruit, biscuits, toothpaste, rice, toilet rolls and ravioli. Thank you so much for continuing to support this initiative so generously.

*'He has shown you, O mortal, what is good.
And what does the Lord require of you?
To act justly and to love mercy
And to walk humbly with your God.'
Micah 6:8*

If you would like to contribute food/toiletries please contact John Best ,email jvbest39@hotmail.com who will gladly collect.

Charitable Donation

We received the following message from Chris Fields, Chief Executive of St George's Crypt: Thank you so much for your kind donation of £150.00. It is very much appreciated by everyone and your continued support means so much to us all.

Alison Lambert, Church Treasurer

The Methodist Conference

This year the Methodist Conference is taking place in Leeds, at the Royal Armouries.

The Conference is the governing body of the Methodist Church under God. It has responsibility for the government, discipline, management, and administration of the life of the Church. Members of the Conference hold a trustee responsibility. The Conference is also a place for worship, thanksgiving, Ordination and celebration. The business of the Conference is done by seeking the will of God through conferring together. Members of the Conference are representatives not delegates.

On Sunday 30th June we will not be having our usual service at Cross Gates but we will be live-streaming the service from the Armouries and inviting other churches to join us to participate with us.

There are limited tickets to attend the service in person and these are available from Eventbrite. Please ask a Steward if you need any help with this.

Christian Aid

Christian Aid week is 12th – 18th May this year.

As well as raising much needed funds the Charity is encouraging everyone to join them in campaigning for a fairer world. They say: *‘This Christian Aid Week, as a UK General Election approaches, the people hoping to represent you in the next UK Parliament will be vying for your vote. They’ll be in listening mode, keen to hear what makes the voters in their community tick.*

Tell your candidates about Christian Aid, show them that your church cares about poverty, and tell them that you expect them to act on poverty too, if they are elected’.

Christian Aid aims:

- to expose poverty throughout the world
- to help in practical ways to end it
- to highlight, challenge and change the structures and systems that favour the rich and powerful over the poor and marginalised.

The History of Cross Gates Libraries- Part Three **By East Leeds History & Archaeology Society**

In 1952, renowned architect Charles Castelow was awarded a bronze medal from the Royal Institute of British Architects. It was for the best building erected in the area of the West Yorkshire Society of Architects between 1939 and 1951. Alderman F.B. Burnley presided over a ceremony to place a plaque outside the library commemorating the award. The plaque was later displayed in the Heritage Centre within the library as part of an exhibition.

A regular visitor to the library in the early days was Leeds author Keith Waterhouse. In his autobiography “City Lights”, Keith describes how he discovered the library in the Cross Gates suburb of ‘bought houses’ when he was trying to find the site of the Barnbow munitions factory where his mother had worked during World War One. Coming across the magnificent library building, all thoughts of Barnbow were driven from his mind. Mistakenly believing he would not be allowed to use Cross Gates library as he was already a member of Osmonthorpe, he invented a new persona for himself and thus obtained two tickets, one junior and one senior, to use in the library. He was overawed at the quantity and

selection of books available and so began a love affair with the library which lasted for many years.

The library became much more than a place just to borrow books. Uniquely in Leeds, in 1999 the former study room became the East Leeds Heritage Centre run by The East Leeds History and Archaeology Society. This Society, established in 1998, was granted permission to create a Heritage Room, which meant it could apply to Leeds Museums & Galleries and other museums, and request items from their collections to display locally. Old display cases earmarked for disposal by Leeds Museums & Galleries were offered to us, firstly on temporary then later on permanent loan. Since that time ELHAS has been responsible for creating most of the displays in the Heritage Room. These depicted the early beginnings of the hamlet of Cross Gates through coal mining, the Barnbow Lasses in WW1, John Smeaton, local agriculture from Austhorpe Hall, and many other themed displays. Artifacts have been displayed from Kirkstall Abbey Museum, Armley Mills Industrial Museum, Leeds Discovery Centre, Eden Camp, World War Two Experience Centre and the National Coal Mining Museum for England. We have also promoted displays supporting exhibitions in Armley Mills Museum and Leeds Museum.

Our society also used the room for Open Days, local history courses, talks to schools and the local community, family history research, and a local history archive built up over the years with many donations from local people. The cabinet displays were changed regularly and always featured subjects of topical interest. The library itself became a complete community resource, being used for such purposes as MP's and Councillor's surgeries, and was also the local polling station. As well as the lending of books, CD's and DVD's, new services such as 'Saturdays' (an activity group for Dads and children), the Reading Group, and Children's Story Time were also offered. The library also had a large selection of computers available to the public, and staff ran courses in computer use including offering free access to the Library Edition of Ancestry.com. Photocopying and faxing facilities were also available and a wide variety of items such as book tokens, gifts, cards and stamps were on sale.

To be continued in the next 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.

Congratulations: to Steven Jones who has worked through a process over the last year in order to become an ordained minister of the Methodist Church in Britain. Steven will be stationed to our circuit as a 'minister in another appointment' outside the church. He will continue his professional career as an accountant and serve in the circuit in his spare time, and he will continue to be the Circuit Financial Steward.

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 Barbara Lloyd 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 (107 Woodland Road, Leeds, LS15 7DN) or to the Church's address.

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 below for contact details)

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

Sunday 19th May, Sunday 16th June.

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