



CROSSGATES METHODIST CHURCH Newsletter May 2022

MINISTER: Rev Helen White

Sabbath and sabbatical



Right back at the very beginning of the Bible, we are told that God took six days over creating the world, “And on the seventh day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day ... So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it.” (Genesis 2:2-3a) The Jewish practice of keeping the Sabbath remembers this – the day of rest at the end of six days of work. In the Christian faith we keep Sunday as a day to remember the resurrection, but also to rest as God did on the seventh day. We’re used to this pattern of work and rest over the course of a

week, and the periods of work and holidays, (originally holy days).

In addition to this pattern of work and rest, the Methodist Church introduced sabbaticals some years ago. To quote from the information on the Methodist Church website, “A sabbatical is a gift from the Church to all presbyters and deacons and it is intended that during a sabbatical they will do something different which will inform and perhaps re-enthuse them in their ministry... a sabbatical is a time of grace allowing them to spend time with God doing something different.”

I’ve been fortunate enough to have 2 sabbaticals so far. My first had the theme of journeys. I walked to Santiago de Compostela; sailed on a Hurtigruten boat along the coast of Norway, and walked St Cuthbert’s Way. My second sabbatical included one month in Israel/Palestine at the Tantur Ecumenical Institute, studying and visiting both traditional Biblical

sites and the people who live in Israel and Palestine. And a multi day walk along the Somerset Coast Path. Both those three month periods were times of re-creation, and refreshment. I also came back with a few new sermon illustrations and talks!

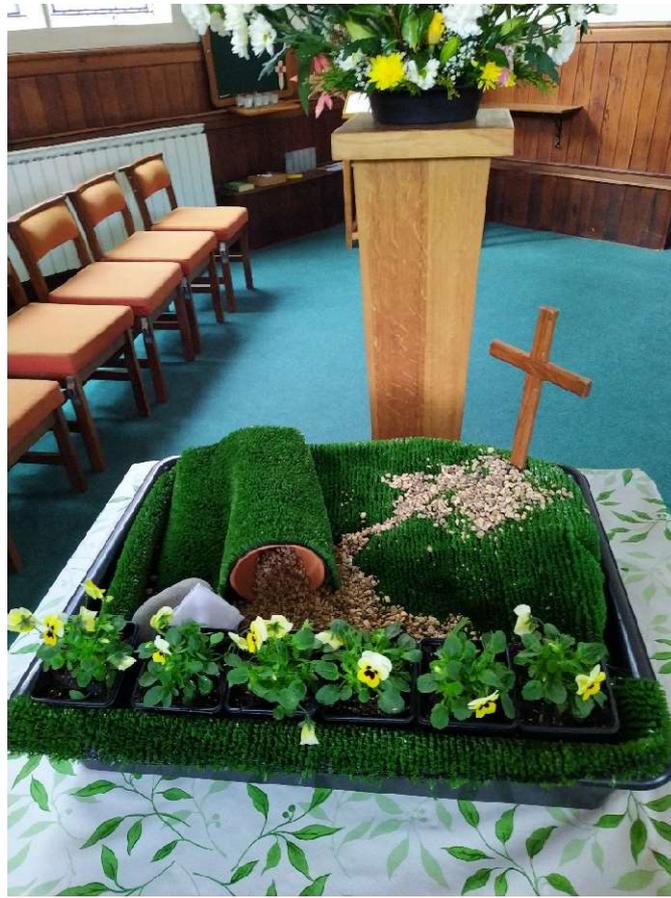
By the time you read this, I will be on my 3rd sabbatical and I hope this too will be a time of re-creation. This time my theme is rivers. I'll be doing some study on the rivers in the Bible and their spiritual and theological significance. My multi day walks will be alongside rivers and waterways, and I'm hoping to learn to stand-up paddle board! That should mean I see rivers from a different angle - though hopefully not from in the river!! I'm sure I'll come back with some more sermon illustrations and talks, and possibly a Bible study.

Thank you to all of you who are picking up extra tasks to allow me this time of refreshment and re-creation. I pray you will all find time during these coming months for rest, refreshment and re-creation - in whatever way renews you. **Helen**

May Services

1 May – 9.30am	Holy Communion	Revd Tanya M Short
1 May – 10.30am		Revd Tanya M Short
8 May – 10.30am		Dr Richard Vautrey
15 May – 10.30pm	& Zoom	Dr Paul Coleman
22 May – 10.30am		Dr Karen Illingworth
29 May – 10.30am		Mr John Clay

Communion Stewards for May are Denise Durkin & Keith Westbrook



The annual Service at Lead Church will take place on Sunday May 22nd at 2.30pm. The service will be led by Reverend Chris Wilton.

The Church is on the site of the 'Towton Battlefield' and is opposite the Crooked Billet Inn, on the Aberford/Towton Road (B1217). Traditionally this service was supported by walkers and cyclists.

Table Top Sales - 7 May & 4 June 9.30am to 12noon

The Saturday coffee morning is now open again so please come along to see what there is for sale and enjoy a drink and a chat.

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 07799094472.

Coffee Mornings

Our grateful thanks go to everyone who has volunteered to help at the coffee mornings. You can now enjoy a drink, with some friendly company, on the following days:

Every Monday (except Bank Holidays) in the Church Hall 10.00am to 11.30am.

First Saturday of the month in the Coffee Room 10.00am to 11.30am.

First Sunday of the month in the Church Hall after the morning service.

We are still looking for more help, especially on a Sunday so that we can have coffee after service every Sunday. If you feel you can spare an hour occasionally please let a steward, Barbara, John or Cedric, know.

East Leeds History & Archaeology Society

Friday **27th May** 2.00pm – Illustrated talk by **Dr Christine Holdstock**:
“A History of Dyes from Ancient Egypt to Leeds.”

Talks take place in the Methodist Church Hall, Cross Gates and all are welcome. Covid precautions will be in place. Please wear a mask.

Admission £2.00

This is the last meeting before Summer. Meetings will resume in September.

Wednesday Group

This group hasn't met since 2019 due to covid but is now re-starting on
Wednesday 18th May.

We will now meet in the afternoon at 2.30pm instead of in the evening.

Please come along and join us. We have an interesting programme planned for the summer.

Charitable Donations

A big **Thank You** to everyone who gave so generously to St Gemma's Hospice & Action for Children at Christmas.

£187.46, including £30 Gift Aid, was donated at the Carol Service for St Gemma's.

£108.00 was given in lieu of Christmas cards, £110.25 from singing carols on the Church steps and £59.89 donated at the Christmas services for Action for Children. With an additional £20.50 Gift Aid a total of £298.64 was raised.

Both of these organisations are always very grateful for the funds you raise each year. *Alison Lambert, Treasurer*

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

In March your Church plus Tranquility Court delivered 12 baskets of food / toiletries to the Distribution Centre, weighing 168KG plus cash of £20. Everything was gratefully received . If you would like to contribute food/toiletries there is a basket in the Galilee or contact John Best email jvbest39@hotmail.com - who will gladly arrange to collect.

How it works;-

(1) FOOD IS DONATED. Schools, Churches, businesses and individuals donate non-perishable food or toiletries. Large collections often take place as part of a seasonal celebration such as Harvest or Christmas. Food is also donated at Supermarkets.

(2) FOOD IS SORTED AND STORED. Volunteers sort food to check that it is in date and store it ready to give to people in crisis who are referred to a local Food Bank. More than 40,000 people give up their time to volunteer at Food Banks across the UK.

(3) PROFESSIONALS IDENTIFY PEOPLE IN NEED. Food Banks partner with a large number of care professionals, such as Doctors, Teachers, Health Visitors and Social Workers to identify people in crisis and give them a Food Bank Voucher to access emergency food.

(4) PEOPLE REFERRED RECEIVE FOOD. People bring their Food Vouchers to a Food Bank, where it can be redeemed for 3 days' worth of emergency food. Volunteers welcome people and offer them further support to help solve the crisis they face.

Equal Marriage Discussion

Last July, the Methodist Conference, reached a decision that within the Methodist Church two equally valid views are held. As a result of the Conference decision, each local Church Council was asked to decide whether or not to register their building for same sex weddings. On Tuesday 22nd March at 7.30pm there was an open meeting at Cross Gates Church, in the Hall, so that we could talk and listen to one another's views on this. Only Church Council members were able to vote, but everyone was welcome to be part of the conversations.

There was a constructive meeting with all present able to discuss the resolutions with the help of the following prompts: what the bible tells us, what the Church tells us, what my/others' stories tell us, what my reasoning tells us. On the evening all present were Church Council members so all were able to vote on whether or not to register Cross Gates Methodist Church for same sex weddings. **The meeting voted in favour of registering Cross Gates Methodist Church for same sex weddings** and the necessary paperwork has now been submitted.

Memories of Crossgates Methodist Church by Janet Morley (nee Keighley)

My first memories of coming to Crossgates were after our move as a family, from Upper Wortley, Leeds, to Whitkirk in November 1960. 'We' were my father Douglas, mother Jean and brother Paul. I was 8 years old and Paul was 2.

Methodism was the corner stone of our family, my paternal grandparents along with my parents having worshipped at Silver Royd Primitive Methodist Chapel, with full involvement in the choir, The Boys' Brigade, Sunday School and many other Chapel groups. It was natural therefore that as soon as we became members at Crossgates, some involvement would follow. My father very soon joined the choir, became a Sunday School teacher (later the Sunday School Superintendent) and Mum joined the Young Wives. Crossgates played a massive part in our lives. I attended Sunday School and remember meeting in the 'New Hall' at the rear of the Church, then the Lecture Hall once promoted to the Seniors. A favourite time of year for me was Harvest. I loved the Sunday service, the Harvest Supper, helping to deliver the result of the Harvest to the elderly.

Sundays meant up to three visits each day to Church, morning service, Sunday School (in those days at 2.00p.m) and then evening service for Dad (sometimes I accompanied him and sat beside him in the choir). On occasion he played the organ, when I was allowed to sit beside him on the organ seat, remembering to slide out of the way when necessary! Before long I joined the Junior Choir, and became a collector for JMA, I still have my JMA medals and the Bars! I remember studying for the Scripture Exam each year and in particular learning the “memory passages”.

Before writing this I was reminiscing with Mum, now 91 years old, and we laughed to remember how she would prepare Sunday dinner to perfect timing so that it was ready when we arrived back home after morning service and just in time for Dad and me to walk back again from Whitkirk to Crossgates in time for Sunday School. Our move to a new build house in Whitkirk had resulted in a very modern electric cooker which had an oven timer – hence the ability to leave the meat and potatoes in the oven and return home to a meal almost ready!

When I was ten I became a Tenderfoot Guide (I couldn't become a fully fledged Girl Guide until my 11th birthday but was too old to join Brownies). Joyce Stead was Captain, and I have many happy memories of guiding include weekend camps at Heyshaw near Dacre at the Chamberlain's Farm. On Friday evening we would load up a flat bed coal lorry (empty of coal for the purpose) and then the girls would sit on top of the tents and other gear and off we would go, singing as we went. Can you imagine the Risk Assessment that might result in today? Joyce, being a Domestic Science teacher, taught us how to cook excellent balanced meals on an open fire. Who knew it was possible to make steamed treacle pudding over a wood fire? I could still erect a ridge tent in the way I was taught back in the 1960's. Thanks to encouragement from Joyce, I worked hard and was awarded the Queens Guide, something I am proud of to this day. The values learned in Guiding formed the bedrock of my life, team work, leadership, caring for others as much as yourself.

In 1970 Dad was invited to start a Boys' Brigade company at Halton Methodist Church (there was already a Scout Troop at Crossgates.) Boys' Brigade being in his blood he transferred membership, along with the family, and we moved to Halton to start the 5th Leeds company.

By this time I had met Phil through Youth Club, the same groups of teenagers would meet at Crossgates, Halton, Manston and Pendas Way. When in 1971 we planned our wedding, I asked if we could possibly be married at Crossgates which still felt like my spiritual home. At that time

Ken Taylor was Minister, and he was happy for Rev John Monkhouse, the previous Minister, to come back to conduct the service. So on 11th September 1971 Phil and I were married. It was a beautiful sunny September day and I can remember it as if it were yesterday. The Organist Godfrey Thomas, after some persuasion, played Widor's Toccata for our leaving the Church – absolutely wonderful. Our Reception was in the Sunday School Hall and was followed by a Social Evening of party games and dancing. My Father's diary notes the reception of a ham salad tea with apple pie for 80, and a buffet supper for 120 cost over £100 – sounds like quite a bargain to me.



Phil and I continued our membership at Halton for many years, and were both officers in The Boys' Brigade until our move to York in 1984.

I am indebted to my life and experiences at Crossgates for so many things and for making me the person I am today.

World Mission Fund

The World Mission Fund (WMF) supports projects and individuals around the world and this work is only made possible by kind donations. Recently £15,000 was given to support the most vulnerable in Sri Lanka as the country faces a serious economic crisis.

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.

Service Options: If there are any people or situations you would like included in the prayers in worship, please let Barbara Lloyd know by Saturday morning, (having got permission from the individual to be named in our prayers). Please do contact Barbara if you would like to receive details of worship via email or would like to have printed worship sheets delivered.

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.

Spotlight on: The articles about members of our congregation have been really well received and everyone has learnt something new about the different members of our Church family. If you would like to join in and offer a few words about your life to feature in future newsletters please send them to Tracy Dick (see the below for contact details).

Date for your Diary: The Church's AGM will take place after the Sunday morning service on 5th June 2022. All welcome to attend.

Your Financial Contributions: Thank you to all those who continue to contribute to the Church's running costs. If you do not attend Church, please continue sending them to Linda Booth or 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 email amandajbrow@gmail.com

Newsletter: Please email contributions for the Newsletter to Tracy Dick tracylouisedick@gmail.com Deadlines coming up: 23rd May, 20th 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