



CROSSGATES METHODIST CHURCH December 2021 Newsletter

MINISTER: Rev Helen White

The Advent Season

I wonder what Advent means to you. By the time you read this, Advent will have started - Advent is as long as it can be this year. 28th November is the earliest Advent starts. I'm hoping that's not the only difference from last year's Advent. The hope and anticipation of Advent last year was coloured by the wondering about what would be possible come Christmas. Although we did find the differences allowed time for an Advent study group. I for one valued that, though I did miss the singing of both Advent hymns and Christmas carols. Does the return to a more normal Christmas season, especially after a very restricted one, mean we're going to be busier than ever, rushing around trying to make it the best Christmas? It certainly feels as though Christmas hit the shops earlier than ever.

Let's take a moment, before we reach Christmas Day, to recognise Advent, and prepare our hearts and minds to receive our Saviour.

That time of year again.
Hurrying round,
Everything to be done.

Advent isn't long enough.
December's far too short.
Very quickly time runs out,

Even though the shops start Christmas in October
No one's noticed Jesus slipping in amongst us
Too busy getting ready for Christmas.

So is that how it will be this year for you,
Everything rushed until Boxing Day comes?
Advent's for preparation
So have you prepared yourself, your heart and soul?
Only Jesus is with us, but ...
No one seems to notice.

May you notice Jesus with you throughout Advent.

Blessings
Helen

Upcoming Services

28 November - 10.30am		Mrs Catherine Frieze
28 November – 3pm	Service of Remembrance	Revd Helen White
5 December – 10.30am		Mr David Laycock
12 December – 10.30am	Holy Communion	Revd Tanya Short
19 December – 10.30am		Prof Peter Howdle
19 December – 4pm	Carol Service (& via Zoom)	Revd Helen White
23 December – 11am	Carol singing on Church Steps	
Christmas Eve - 4pm	Crib Service	Revd Helen White
Christmas Eve -11.30pm	Holy Communion	Revd Helen White
Christmas Day - 10.30am		Revd Joyce Nicholson
26 December	No Service	

Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son and shall name him Immanuel.

Isiah 7:14

Christmas 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 special Christmas edition of the newsletter. The deadline for messages is **Friday 10th December** and can be sent to Tracy via any of the methods below. Donations should be brought to a Church service, sent to Linda Booth (clearly separated from your collection), or posted to Church.

Tracy Dick tracylouisedick@gmail.com or write to 5 Manston Gardens, Leeds, LS15 8EY

Action for Children helps children across the UK to grow up safe and happy. They offer practical and emotional support to families.

Message from our Senior Steward

I am happy to report that many things at Church have restarted and we feel as if things are a bit more normal. However we do know Covid is not over and we must remain cautious and current restrictions must be kept in place for the time being.

The Men's and Ladies' groups have returned fortnightly at their new afternoon slots and the Devotional class meet at 10.30 alternate Thursday mornings. By the time you are reading this you should have received (or will do very soon) your Advent booklet, similar to the one you got last year. Circuit are purchasing these, so that everyone can receive a copy and have they have asked if you would like to donate a small amount towards the cost, a collection plate will be out until Christmas and the suggested donation is £1 to £2. The New Plan is now available so you will see what Christmas Services there will be. Singing carols on the Church steps will take place on Thursday 23rd December and once again Arran will accompany us on the keyboard. It makes it much easier to sing accompanied!

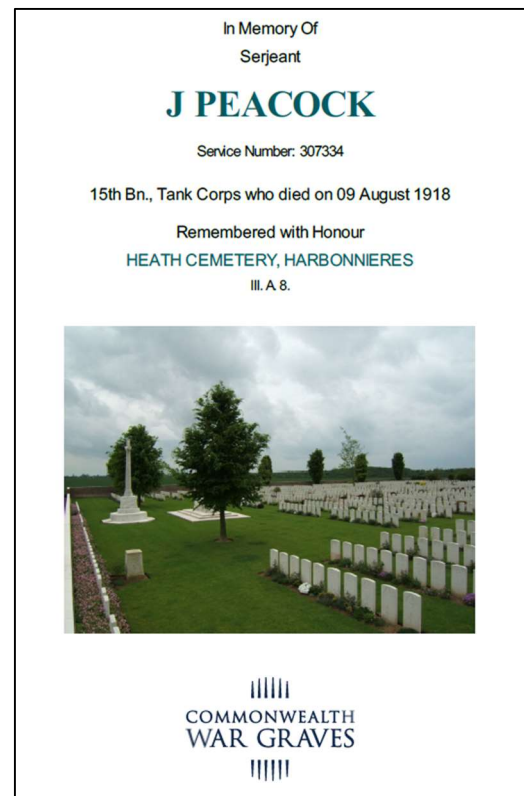
As you know, Helen has to 'share herself out' between her four churches so Revd Joyce Nicholson will be here on Christmas Day at 10.30am. We thank God for Helen and all that she brings to worship at Cross Gates. I wish you all a happy Christmas and a Peaceful New year and on behalf of John, Cedric and I, many thanks for your support and understanding during this year. **Love & blessings, Barbara Lloyd**

Cross Gates Methodist Church – World War One Memorial

Here is the final part of my article about the men named on the plaque in church. Thank you to David Teal who provided a lot of the information about these people. **Christine Holdstock**

Sergeant John Peacock

John was born in Saltburn, Yorkshire but his address from 1914 to 1918 on the electoral register was 25 Marshall Street, Crossgates. He enlisted into the Royal Engineers in Leeds and was later transferred to the Royal Tank Corps. He was killed in action on 9th Aug 1918 in the Somme region of France. His pension was paid to his mother Isabelle Peacock. He is listed in a book of the “Leeds Roll of Honour”.



Second Lieutenant Eric Arthur Stephenson



Lt. E. A. Stephenson,

Eric was born in 1896 in Pocklington, Yorkshire. His father, Arthur, was stationmaster at Cross Gates in 1918.

Eric had enlisted in the Northumberland Fusiliers, but on 29th August 1917 was commissioned into the Yorkshire Regiment as temporary 2nd Lieutenant and attached to the 2nd Battalion West Yorkshire Regiment

Eric Stephenson was part of the North Russia Expeditionary Force, which left the UK in October 1918, to support the White Russians. From the Yorkshire Regiment he was then attached to the 17th Battalion of the King's Liverpool Regiment. On 7th February 1919, Eric Stephenson's Company attacked the Bolshevik forces. They quickly took the nearby small town of Kodish but enemy resistance was so strong that the attack had to be called off. When the Allies returned to their previous positions it was found that Eric had been wounded and failed to join them at base.



He was never seen again and presumably either died of his wounds or was killed by the enemy. He is commemorated at the Archangel Allied Memorial and on a family gravestone in Pocklington cemetery.

<https://www.liverpoolpals.com/soldier/?i=2400/2nd%20Lieut-eric-arthur-stephenson>

Fred Atkinson, George Fred Beaumont, Clement Holliday, Harry B Holliday, Wilfred Holliday, Bertram Kemp, Horace Kemp, Clarence Lea, Albert Linley, Frank Mills, John Peacock, Eric A. Stephenson, and Kenneth Stott.

“We will remember”

They never lived to see victory, to hear they helped win a war;
They lay dead where they fell in fields, trenches and shore.

We'll never forget, it's our duty to remember each year;
The men and the women who fought regardless of their own fear

Men's Fellowship ***To the Men of the Church***

Is it really a year and a half since the Men's Fellowship last met? What strange times we have seen. Well here is good news - the meetings have now recommenced and we will be together again! We offer a programme of entertainment, conversation, relaxation and refreshments. This now takes place in the Wesley Room on alternate Tuesdays at 2pm.

Provisional Programme to Christmas:

November 2nd – John Blyth, My Music

November 16th – Pie, Peas & Quiz

November 30th – Revd Helen White

December 7th – Christmas Carols & Readings

To all members welcome back and to all newcomers, lovely to see you!

God bless and stay safe. ***Your Committee: John Blyth, Trevor Chorley, Harry Drake, Alan Tate & Michael Teal.***

Rainbow of Ribbons

There is still time to dedicate a ribbon in memory of someone who has died recently or who has been loved and missed for many months or years. Everyone is welcome to attend the Service of Remembrance but you can dedicate a ribbon without attending the service. Only those names requested will be read out. Refreshments will be served afterwards. Ribbons are available at Church services and events.

Monday Coffee Morning

Monday coffee mornings have started again, 10:00am to 11:30am for a trial period. We are asking people to remain seated for most of the time and your coffee will be served to you. We have limited seating, but the people who have come seem happy with the arrangements and are enjoying meeting up again. If you know anyone who would be willing to help once a fortnight or once a month on a rota please will you let a steward know.

Table Top Sale - 4th December

The Saturday sales have started again with fewer tables so that everyone has more space to social distance but please note that the accompanying coffee morning has not yet re-opened. If you would like any more details or to book a table, at a cost of £5 for church funds, please phone Lynda 07799094472.

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

In October our Church plus Tranquility Court delivered 12 baskets of food & toiletries to the Distribution Centre, weighing 176KG plus cash of £40. Everything was gratefully received.

Barbara Tate (a Trustee) writes in the newsletter – ‘*We need to have a big push before Christmas. We need to have as much stock as possible as traditionally donations are low in January. We feel that this winter will probably be the worst we have experienced, so please help all you can.*’

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 collect.

PS. Why not add a Christmas treat - sweets, chocolate, biscuits or mince pies (with a good use-by date.)

If you are able to contribute food or toiletries, there is a basket in the Galilee or contact John Best, email jvbest39@hotmail.com, who will gladly collect from you.

Charitable Donations

*We are pleased to be able to continue supporting charities, near and far.
Here are some thanks we have received recently.*

Cross Gates & District Good Neighbours’ Scheme (Working with and for older people)

Many thanks for the £100 donation again this year, we very much appreciate your continued support. This money will be used in our new enterprise in the shop in the Arndale Centre – The Cross Gates & Whinmoor Hub.

All We Can (Methodist relief and development)

Thank you very much for your generous gifts which you sent to All We Can’s Next Steps appeal. £297.60 from your Harvest collection and £244.00 from your Memorial service will make a big difference. Thanks to your generosity, All We Can’s local partner, HEFO, will be able to support livestock farmers in rural Nkayi (southern Zimbabwe) to take their next steps towards overcoming the challenges of Covid-19, climate change and poverty.

Old Spectacles

The Spectacular Eyewear shop (on the parade of shops near Chiltern Mills) will be very pleased to have your old spectacles to take to the Maasai people in rural Kenya. Please take them to the shop before Christmas. If you are unable to take your spectacles to the shop please put them in the box in the Galilee and we will take them over.

Congratulations: To Becky Holden (nee Booth) and Chris on the birth of their daughter Morgan and to the grandparents Linda and Graham Booth.

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

Content is updated weekly on a Thursday evening.

Service Options: If there are any people or situations you would like included in the prayers in worship, please let me know by Saturday morning, (having got permission from the individual to be named in our prayers).

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

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.

Newsletter: Please email contributions for the Newsletter to Tracy Dick tracylouisedick@gmail.com or write to 5 Manston Gardens, Leeds, LS15 8EY. Deadlines coming up: Special Christmas Edition 13th December, January 17th, February 14th.

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