



# CROSSGATES METHODIST CHURCH Newsletter February 2023

MINISTER: Rev Helen White

## Kindness

What is kindness? It's a word that crops up in Auld Lang Syne: 'we'll take a cup of kindness yet...' In a nursing home I visited frequently for a while, it was one of the core values. On the wall in the corridor were seven statements about kindness including: 'You may not be able to define kindness in care but you'll know it when you see it'. I think that's true for quite a few ideas, ways of being, and indeed, the fruit of the Spirit. Kindness is one of the fruit listed in Galatians chapter 5. What did Paul have in mind, I wonder, when he included kindness in that list? It sits alongside love, joy, peace, patience, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

What does kindness look like in our dealings with others? As it's set alongside gentleness and self control, does kindness involve thinking before you say something, treating others as you would like to be treated? Or perhaps treating others better than we would like to be treated. I think kindness means dealing with one another, as God does, with love and patience; being generous towards one another. In some ways, that list of fruit of the Spirit sounds like a list of very inoffensive, gentle characteristics. A bit meek and mild perhaps. Yet they are far from easy to live out, I would suggest. They are the fruit of a life lived in Jesus, guided by the Holy Spirit. They are something we show as we grow ever closer to Jesus. But we can't use that as a cop out, thinking that as they grow from following Jesus, we don't need to pay attention to cultivating them. So, back to the particular fruit I'm writing about: kindness.

How will you live that out in what you do and say this month? Are there particular people or situations where you need to ask God for help in being kind? **Blessings, Helen**

God of the poor, bless us with your compassion. God of the bereaved, bless us with your comfort. God of the humble, bless us with gentleness. God of the righteous, bless us with wisdom.	God of the merciful, bless us with forgiveness. God of the pure in heart, bless us with kindness. God of the peacemakers, bless us with understanding. God of the persecuted, bless us with courage. Amen.
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*(Prayer taken from Rootsontheweb © 2002-2023)*

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## **February Services**

5 February – 10.30am		Revd Helen White
12 February – 10.30am		Mr Michael Prince
19 February – 10.30am	Holy Communion	Revd Norma Davey
26 February – 10.30am		Mrs Janice Green

Communion Stewards for February are Denise Durkin & Keith Westbrook.

*Services in the coldest months – January to March - will be taking place in the Church Hall rather than the Church itself. This is in order to save money on heating costs whilst ensuring we all stay warm.*

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## **Church Flowers**

The flowers in church on Sunday January 5th were donated by Pauline Brown and on 15th January by Alison Lambert. Georgina and Barbara thank you both and they have been much appreciated by the congregation.

*If anyone would like to donate flowers please see Georgina.*

### **A message from our Senior Steward**

Many of you will know we have been worshipping in the Church Hall since the 8th January, this is a much warmer space and considerably cheaper to heat than the church building. There have been very mixed views,

some prefer the Church Hall and some want to get back into the Church. If you can think of anything we can do to improve our time in the Hall, please let me, John or Cedric know. We are very grateful to Christine and Richard for organising the sound system. If you can help to serve after Church coffee on the first Sunday of the month it would be appreciated and also to help with refreshments at the repair café which is held in the Church Hall on the 3rd Saturday in each month. Please let me know if you can help occasionally. Thank you for all your support.

The answers to the Christmas Carol quiz are: 1. God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen, 2. Good King Wenceslas, 3. Hark the Herald, 4. In the bleak midwinter, 5. It came upon the Midnight clear, 6. O Come all Ye Faithful, 7. O Little Town of Bethlehem, 8. Silent Night, 9. While Shepherds Watched, 10. The first Noel, 11. The Holly and the Ivy, 12. We Three Kings, 13. I Saw Three Ships (I didn't get that one!) 14. Away in a Manger, 15. Angels from the Realms of Glory.  
Love and Prayers, **Barbara.**

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### **Christmas Dinner**

The 60 or so guests waited in eager anticipation. Suddenly the chatter eased off as the waitresses brought it in. Magnificent! Roast potatoes beautifully browned with the accompaniment of mashed. Sprouts that melted in your mouth and peas and carrots that not only looked good but tasted great as well. 'Pigs in Blankets' and gravy in abundance. The turkey, served in ample proportions, was beautifully cooked together with the stuffing.....and then there was the pudding! Traditional Christmas Pudding of course with lashings of custard, followed with tea/coffee and mints. The meal concluded when Holly Wiles entertained us by beautifully singing her favourite Carols and Christmas music. Wonderful! Great thanks for a scrumptious meal. Thanks to the cooks who worked so many hours to produce a meal for so many. Thanks to the waitresses, potato peelers and 'washers up'. Thanks to the planners and Holly's singing.....and thanks to the Church Family for attending. **John Best**

### **Table Top Sales - 4th February & 4th March**

The sales are getting busier again and all the tables have been taken in February. If you would like to be put on the waiting list for February, or to book a table for a future sale at a cost of £5 for church funds, please either see Lynda at church on a Sunday morning or phone 07799094472.

The Christmas Fair raised an amazing £858.81 which will be shared between Meeting Point Cafe and Church. We would like to thank everyone who helped on the day and those who supported it in any way.

### **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

14/02/2023 Andy Birkett - "Yorkshire Folk and Folklore"

28/02/2023 Board Games

### **East Leeds History & Archaeology Society**

Friday **24th February** 2.00pm – Dr Christine Holdstock will present an illustrated talk "A History of Pigments from Cave Paintings to Leeds Street Art"

Talks take place in the Methodist Church Hall Cross Gates and all are welcome. **Admission £2.00**

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### **Charitable Donations**

A big thank you to everyone who gave so generously to Action for Children at Christmas. £192 was raised in lieu of Christmas cards, including £30 gift aid, £146.77 for singing carols on the Church steps and £104.48 (including £3.75 gift aid) at our Church services. The total raised was £443.25.

I have also sent a cheque to Meeting Point for £574.41 which was half the proceeds from the Christmas Fayre and the Serendipity Christmas concert.

Your continued support of our fundraising at this time is greatly appreciated.

**Alison Lambert**, Church Treasurer

## **A Day in the Life of Meeting Point Cafe**

No two days are ever the same in this exceptional café. I arrive at 6am and the first hour is spent preparing bacon, sausage, beans and tomatoes ready for opening. Most mornings I have a queue of homeless men and women waiting for 7am so that they can get a warm sandwich and a drink after sleeping rough on the streets overnight. Some mornings it can be quite an experience, hearing their stories and arguments.

From about 7.30am we get a regular stream of people from all walks of life, workmen, mums taking children to school, the staff from St Gemma's Hospice shop. They all congregate in the café. The atmosphere is always a happy one with conversations flying across the café.

From about 9am things slow down a bit and this gives us time to prepare lunch for the day. It could be corned beef hash, lasagne or shepherd's pie. People come to Meeting Point for good food, a warm safe space and many come to talk to friends because they feel comfortable in here.

We regularly have people coming who are struggling with the cost of living and we prepare emergency hampers to help them out.

Meeting Point is a major part of the Harehills community, many refer to it as the Church café. Over my 28 years of working in the café I've met so many amazing people and it's not like coming to work; it's like coming home. Meeting Point café is unlike any other café, nobody is judged – all are treated equally. With the support of all the Churches in the circuit we hope Meeting Point will continue to serve the people of Harehills for many more years.

We close the café at 1.30pm, clean up and leave it ready to start again the next day. **Pauline Burrows, *Manager of Meeting Point Cafe***

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## **In Memory**

Sadly, there were several deaths amongst our members in the week leading up to Christmas: Trevor Chorley, Margaret Rhodes, Irene Sercombe, Marie Hartley, Ken Harwood. Eric Varley is remembered in this edition but the March newsletter will contain thoughts and memories of all six members (including Eric) who died recently.

**Please send your contributions to Tracy Dick (contact details on the back page) by Friday 17<sup>th</sup> February.**

## **In Memory**

### **Eric Varley: 12th October 1925 – 30th October 2022**

At Eric's funeral on 2nd December at St Mary's Parish Church, Kippax, the vicar who gave the Eulogy said that Eric had written his life story which was over a hundred pages long! These are my recollections of what was said at the service. Eric's parents lived in Kippax, but moved to Hampshire when Eric was small. His father was a baker and the family owned the village shop. Eric had to get up very early to help in the bakery before going to school. He also made deliveries for the shop on his bike. Eric was only 13 when war broke out and he had to leave school to help his father as all the shop workers had been called up. He started to drive the delivery van then!

When Eric was 17 he signed up for the Royal Navy – living close to Portsmouth he had visited many ships in dock as a child, including HMS Hood. He was assigned to the Fleet Air Arm and was trained as an aircraft mechanic. He spent the war years repairing Naval aircraft that were used by pilots training to land on aircraft carriers - as they were trying to land on something as small as a ship's deck many repairs were needed! At the end of the war his father could not manage to keep the shop going and the family moved back to Kippax.

Eric met Doreen, who became his wife, she came to Cross Gates Methodist Church, so he also became a member here. They ran a greengrocers shop on Pendas Way – Eric was still having to get up very early to go to the market. Eric became a Steward and a member of our Men's Fellowship, where he would give talks about his life.

My lasting memory of Eric is when he took part in the 2021 Remembrance Day service here. At the age of 96 he asked if he could lead us in the National Act of Remembrance. He spoke about his war-time service, then said:

“Let us remember before God, those who have given their lives in the cause of freedom and in the service of others. They shall grow not old as we that are left grow old. Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun and in the morning we will remember them.”

***Christine Holdstock***

## **Spotlight on.....Margaret & Geoff Yapp**

You may have wondered who that couple are that for the past 25 years or so have sat towards the back on the left side of the Church on a Sunday Morning so now you will find out a little more!

We were born and lived about four miles apart near Ludlow in Shropshire. Geoff from a staunch Methodist family (grandfather preaching 'fire and brimstone' sermons every Sunday) and Margaret C of E. We met in the late 1950's, married 60 years ago in 1962 and set up our first home in a flat in Gloucester where I worked for National Provincial Bank and where Margaret, a trained Jeweller, set up a new jewellery dept for the CWS. We were not there long before I was moved to London and eventually managed to afford a small house in Chelmsford which was then a two hour daily commute each way to the West End. As in Gloucester we attended the Methodist Church taking part in its sporting and theatrical activities. Whilst in Chelmsford our two sons were born keeping Margaret fully occupied with me out for 12 hours a day (and playing football after work on a Saturday in South London!)

After six years in Chelmsford a succession of four moves in five years (Hereford, Birmingham, Wolverhampton and back to London) saw us back in commuter land when we moved to Harpenden and gave the boys some educational stability. Over the next 22 years I moved through a series of jobs with National Westminster resulting my specialism in corporate rescue working in the UK and periodically in Europe.

During our time in Harpenden the boys completed their schooling and went on to University, Margaret was busy running the office for Boots and providing vital work support for me as well as hosting and attending social events connected with my work. During this time we attended Harpenden Methodist Church where Sunday Morning services and Sunday School both had to be split due to numbers attending! Whilst at Harpenden I also ran the Methodist Tennis Club, acted as Community Adviser and was very proud to receive The Chief Scouts Award for services to Scouting. On retirement we moved to Barwick to be nearer to our family although Kevin subsequently moved with his work to the US and has become a US citizen and lives on his farm in Illinois. Our other son Ian is CEO of an Academy in North Yorkshire.

Whilst we are adherents we count ourselves as Methodists having attended Church regularly for over 60 years together. Our faith is strong and God has seen us through many troubled times, has answered many prayers, worked many miracles for us and has looked after us so well. We have so much to be thankful for.

*Please consider writing a few words about your life for inclusion in a future newsletter. Please send contributions to Tracy Dick.*

**Leeds South & East Foodbank (Trussell Trust):** The foodbank is desperate for any food etc but have asked specifically for tea, coffee, rice pudding, tinned meat and fish, potatoes, veg and fruit. **If you would like to contribute food/toiletries please contact John Best** email [jvbest39@hotmail.com](mailto:jvbest39@hotmail.com) who will gladly collect.

**Condolences:** Please remember in your prayers the families and friends of Eric Varley, Trevor Chorley, Margaret Rhodes, Irene Sercombe, Ken Harwood and Marie Hartley.

**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.

**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.

**Websites:**

Circuit: [www.leedsnandemethodist.org.uk](http://www.leedsnandemethodist.org.uk)

District: [www.yorkshirewestmethodist.org.uk](http://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](mailto:tracylouisedick@gmail.com) Deadlines coming up: Friday 17<sup>th</sup> February, Monday 20<sup>th</sup> March, Monday 17<sup>th</sup> 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*