



# CROSSGATES METHODIST CHURCH November 2024 Newsletter

MINISTER: Rev Becki Stennett

## **Walking on a Lifepath**

As I write this article, I'm looking forward to a week working with primary school aged children, teaching them about the Christian faith, and Methodist tradition, by exploring the life of John Wesley with them.

*The Wesley Lifepath* is a project I've been part of writing for the last few years, and a true joy, if a slightly exhausting one sometimes!

Groups of children come and spend the whole day with us in church (this time, working with a neighbouring circuit, we're excited to be seeing 8 schools through the doors), and they learn a bit about John Wesley's life, and much more about the influence that his life and legacy have had on those of us who are Methodists, and indeed the wider world too.

Of course, all of this is done with interactive workshops which include plenty of mess and fun, and a good sprinkling of action songs too...

We follow a format through the event that enable us to explore John Wesley's *Lifepath* and helps us to think about our own paths through life, encouraging young people to reflect on how we are all able to make a difference in the world, and work with others to seek justice.

It's a project I love, and I feel I could fill several volumes on the various reflections I have about it, but for today, I want to offer just a thought or two about the concept of the '*Lifepath*'.

John Wesley's *Lifepath* is one which gives lots of rich resources for children to reflect on, as a person who was inspired to act in certain ways and achieve some extraordinary things as a result of this faith.

Each of us are also on a *Lifepath*, and though most of us are unlikely to leave a legacy as impactful as John Wesley's, we can choose to act in certain ways and achieve wonderful things as a result of our faith.

Who knows what differences we might make to others as we go along the path.

As we approach the season of remembrance, I wonder if there are other *lifepaths* that we have been touched by? The life of a family member or close friend who has inspired us in faith? The life of a teacher or colleague who taught us lifechanging lessons? The life of a medical professional whose commitment to their vocation meant we received essential care?

I suppose the point for me is that none of us are walking along our lifepaths in isolation from others, and our paths through life are not forged without the impact of those who have gone before.

It's good to take time to be grateful for those who have paved the path for us as we journey in faith, and to consider carefully how our lifepaths might be impacting others.

Above all, perhaps we can remember that the path we take has been walked before us by Jesus, and it is a way illuminated by the light of the divine, who calls us to be creative, compassionate, justice-seeking and world-changing people, as individuals and as a collective body.

How we seek to be and do these things, well, that's been left to us. I pray we take time to pray and meditate on the way we are each called to walk the *lifepath* ahead, seeking to step in the Saviour's imprints as we go.

**Rev Becki**

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### **November Services**

3rd November	Holy Communion	Rev Norma Davey
10 <sup>th</sup> November	Remembrance Sunday	Mr Ted Britton
17 <sup>th</sup> November		Mr Paul Spencer
24 <sup>th</sup> November	Sunday before Advent	Mrs Hazel Featherstone

*The communion stewards for November are Denise Durkin & Keith Westbrooke.*

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### **Church Flowers**

Flowers on 25th September were arranged by Barbara Leeming for Jean Hornshaw's funeral followed by the flowers for harvest festival. The small table ones for Jean's tea and harvest tea were done by Georgina Cressey and Barbara Lloyd. The flowers on October 2<sup>nd</sup> were sponsored by Pearl (formerly of Seacroft) in celebration of her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday. Flowers on 13th October were donated by Carol Smith in memory of John's mum.

If you would like fresh flowers to be arranged in Church please contact Georgina Cressey or Barbara Leeming.

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**Thanks:** A sincere thank you to the ladies and gentlemen who had put such a lot of thought and hard work to plan an excellent tea after the Harvest Festival. It was a happy and enjoyable time. ***Beryl Gledhill on behalf of all who attended***

## **Ladies Friendship Group**

Meetings are held at 2.30pm in the Wesley Room. *All welcome.*

12/11/24 – *To Grow or Not to Grow, Revd George Bailey*

26/11/24 – *A Beetle Drive, Organised by Carol*

## **Men's Fellowship**

Meetings are held at 2pm in the Wesley Room. *All welcome.*

5/11/24 – *Pie & Peas and a Quiz*

19/11/24 – *To the Beautiful Lakes of Croatia, Christine Holdstock*

## **Table Top Sale – 2nd November and 7<sup>th</sup> December,**

### **9.30am – 12 noon**

Why not come along for a drink and a chat and then browse round all the items for sale. You might just find 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 on 0779 9094472.*

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

Methodist Church Hall Austhorpe Road Cross Gates

Friday 29<sup>th</sup> November 2.00pm

**'RH Greaves – A Man who Built Bridges'** by Bill Jagers

Admission £2.00 including refreshments. *All welcome*

## **Other Dates for your Diary**

<b>Saturday 30/11/23</b>	<b>10am – 2pm</b>	<b>Church Christmas Fair</b>
<b>Sunday 17/11/23</b>		<b>Deadline for Christmas Greetings</b>
<b>Saturday 21/12/23</b>	<b>11am</b>	<b>Carols on the Church Steps</b>
<b>Sunday 22/12/23</b>	<b>4pm</b>	<b>Carol Service</b>

## **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 December edition of the newsletter.

The deadline for messages is **Sunday 17th November** and can be sent to Tracy via any of the methods below. Donations should be brought to a Church service (clearly separated from your collection) or posted to Church.

*Tracy Dick* [tracylouisedick@gmail.com](mailto:tracylouisedick@gmail.com)

## **Christmas Fair Help – Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> November**

If you can help in any way with the Christmas Fair we would love to hear from you. Donations are still needed for the tombola, chocolate tombola and items to sell. Also, if you can put up a poster in a local shop or give out some leaflets please do get in touch.

*Tracy Dick, Elizabeth Hartley, Caroline Carr*

## **A Message from our Senior Steward**

Our Harvest celebrations took place on 29<sup>th</sup> September. Rev. Becki led the service, which was excellent, then we went on to have a splendid harvest tea prepared by Elizabeth and Graeme. No mean feat preparing a meal for nearly 60 people, several with specific dietary requirements. This was followed by a social, organized by Richard and Christine. All the people who stayed thought this was a great occasion. At Church Council this week we discussed what we could have done differently as we realised by the time we got to the social many folk were worried about getting home in the dark and some had found they were too tired to stay to the Social. Church Council took all the comments on board and we will arrange something different for next year. Perhaps some of you may have ideas so please give one of the Stewards any suggestions you may have.

***Thank you, Barbara Lloyd (Senior Steward)***

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## **Church Refurbishment Appeal - Update**

The amount raised at our Gift Day that I reported in last month's newsletter was incorrect - in a good way! On the day we actually raised £1960.00, which means the total should have been £2420.31 - even more fabulous than we thought. A further £70.00 was received in September, so our running total is now £2490.31. You still have time to donate if you haven't had the opportunity to do so. Please speak to a Steward, Alison Lambert, Amanda Brow or Linda Booth for further information. We will also be claiming back Gift Aid on those donations that are eligible. If you pay tax and haven't signed up for our Gift Aid scheme yet, please see Deborah Carter for a form. Thank you again for your generosity.

***Alison Lambert, Church Treasurer***

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**Monday Coffee Morning:** Please come and join us each Monday in the Church Hall between 10am and 11.30am. Coffee, snacks and a listening ear on offer.

**After Church Coffee:** Please do join us for a hot drink and fellowship after each morning service. The rota for November is: 3<sup>rd</sup> Georgina Cressey & Neil Smith, 10<sup>th</sup> Carol Smith & Neil Smith, 17<sup>th</sup> David Barrett & Neil Smith, 24<sup>th</sup> Margaret Saysell & Neil Smith.

**Leeds South & East Foodbank:** Items can be brought each Sunday but as always collection can be arranged via John Best.

**If you are able to donate, please contact John Best, email [jvbest39@hotmail.com](mailto:jvbest39@hotmail.com) who will gladly collect from you.**

**Your Financial Contributions:** Thank you to all those who have continued to contribute to the Church's running costs. If you do not attend Church, please send them to the Church's address.

## November – the Season for Remembrance

The Lychgate of St Mary's Church, Whitkirk, is a scheduled war memorial and lists the names of those from the Parish of Whitkirk who died in both World Wars. Several of the men who are named on the Institute Memorial are also listed here.



Serjeant **CLIFFORD BROOK**  
15th Bn., West Yorkshire  
Regiment (Prince of Wales's  
Own) - the Leeds Pals, died on  
01 July 1916, age 25. He is  
remembered on the Thiepval  
Memorial to the missing on the  
Somme. In 1911 he was living  
with his parents, Jane and  
George at 1 Carter Mount,  
Whitkirk, (off Hollyshaw Lane)  
and working as a Clerk in an  
Engineer's office.  
He is also named on the  
Whitkirk memorial.



Private **EDMUND  
STEPHENSON CLOUGH**  
1st Bn., East Lancashire  
Regiment died on 27 October  
1918, age 33. He was the son  
of Charles and Elizabeth  
Clough, of 25 Church Lane,  
Manston, and husband of Edith  
May.  
He is remembered at the  
Vendegies Cross Roads British  
Cemetery, Bermerain.



Private **PERCY COULTAS**

15th Bn., West Yorkshire Regiment (Prince of Wales's Own) - the Leeds Pals, died on 31 January 1919, age 24. He was the son of James and Maria Coultas, of "Belmont," Morrith Avenue, Halton. He is remembered at the Longuenesse (St. Omer) Souvenir Cemetery. He is also named on the Whitkirk memorial.



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Private **LOUIS / LEWIS DODSON**

8th Bn., Royal Fusiliers who died on 31 July 1916, aged 23. He is remembered on the Thiepval Memorial to the missing on the Somme. In 1911 he was living with his parents Arthur and Elizabeth at Tynemouth Villa, Crossgates (does anyone know where this was?).



Rifleman **ERIC SUTHERLAND MACKAY**

8th Bn., West Yorkshire Regiment (Prince of Wales's Own), died on 31 July 1918, age 18, son of Robert and Eleanor Mackay, of 26, Hollyshaw Lane, Whitkirk, Leeds. He is remembered at the St. Sever Cemetery Extension, Rouen. Also on Whitkirk memorial.



Private **THOMAS ANTHONY SOWREY**

37th Gen. Hosp, Royal Army Medical Corps, died on 12 March 1917, age 27.

In 1911 he was living with his parents Joshua and Mary Hannah at The Arcade Crossgates. He is remembered at the Mikra British Cemetery, Kalamaria. in the city of Thessaloniki, Greece.



**Sources**

Cross Gates Wesleyan Methodist Church Jubilee (1882-1932) Booklet.

Skyrack Courier 17<sup>th</sup> October 1919.

1911 Census for England and Wales

<https://www.cwgc.org/>

<https://whitkirkchurch.org.uk/remembrance/>

<https://leedspalsvolunteerresearchers.wordpress.com/alphabetical-list-of-pals/>

**WE WILL REMEMBER THEM**

*Christine Holdstock*

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**Condolences:** to Mary and all the family and friends of Michael Teal.

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

**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](mailto:tracylouisedick@gmail.com)

Deadlines coming up: Deadlines coming up: Sunday 17th November (for December and January editions), Sunday 19th January 2025.

#### **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*