

CROSSGATES METHODIST CHURCH September 2023 Newsletter

MINISTER: Rev Becki Stennett

Changes

September is the start of the Methodist year; it is a time of change for many churches including Crossgates. Rev. Helen White left our Circuit on 31st July and Rev. Becki Stennett becomes our new minister on 1st September, so Tracy asked me to write the introduction for this Newsletter. Her request arrived the day after the Circuit leaving service for Helen and Deacon Liesl Warren, it was an excellent service so I thought that I would tell you something about it.

Helen enjoyed singing with Concordia whenever she could, so had asked Concordia to lead the music for the service. The Circuit staff and stewards took part and the preacher was our Chair of District, Rev. Kerry Tankard. Kerry began his sermon by saying “I am an unapologetic fan of Star Trek – but only the series and films with the original cast!” He compared the film ‘Star Trek VI: The Undiscovered Country’ to the Bible reading and the current situation. In Exodus (14:5-14) the Israelites are leaving Egypt, but when they reach the Red Sea they think they are trapped and feel that the past seems more attractive, even after God has saved them. “As a Circuit you may not want changes, but are here today as a product of change, about to enter an Undiscovered Country.” “Helen and Liesl are about to enter undiscovered countries of their own, the places that God has called them to be.”

Both Helen and Liesl had been asked to choose a hymn that was important to them. Liesl had chosen the hymn “You’re calling us and so we are gathered here” StF 37. She spoke about how she appreciated the positivity she had found in the circuit, allowing her to be a Deacon at the margins and seeing God there. This hymn affirms God’s continued call to us and our willingness to continue to say yes - “Call the lonely, call the broken, young and old will sing hosannas. Let’s fill this house with praise.”

Helen said she had chosen a hymn that was particular to her time in Leeds. One of the things she had found here was the importance of working as a team, with Churches and Staff. Preparing worship together she had discovered “Down the mountain the river flows” (StF 377), - it linked her sabbatical theme of rivers, with the walking in the mountains that she already enjoyed. The line “The river of God sets our feet a-dancing” reminded her of Kath leading us dancing round the church, and doing the hokey-cokey at church socials. She finished by saying that she will look back with joy and tears, but most of all with thankfulness for God’s refreshing river found in unexpected, as well as expected places.

We wish Helen all the best for the future and look forward to welcoming Becki as our new minister.

Christine Holdstock

September Services

3rd September	Holy Communion	Revd Norma Davey
10th September	Baptism	Revd Becki Stennett
17th September		Mr David Laycock
24th September	Harvest Festival	Mr Andy Birkitt

The Communion Stewards for September are Carol Smith & Cynthia Best

Church Flowers

Flowers on 23rd July were donated by **Cynthia and John Best** to celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary.

Shirley Clough donated flowers on 6th August in remembrance of her husband Roy and her brother Ray.

Flowers on 20th August were donated by **Georgina and Roy Cressey** in memory of her mum and dad's wedding anniversary on the 10th and her mum's birthday on the 20th.

Georgina and Barbara continue to thank everyone for their kind donations. Please contact Georgina or Barbara if wanting flowers in Church. Thank you.

Table Top Sales

2nd September & 7th October - 9.30am to 12 noon

Why don't you come along to the Church Hall and enjoy a drink and a breakfast bap while chatting to friends. You can then pick up a bargain from one of our stalls.

If you would like to book a table, at a cost of £5 for Church funds, please see Lynda at church on a Sunday morning or call 0779 9094472.

Please come along and support us and spread the word to your family and friends.

Ladies Friendship Group

The Ladies Friendship Group re-starts on Tuesday, 12th September at 2:30pm in the Wesley Room with a Beetle Drive. Meetings will continue on every second and fourth Tuesdays from September '23 to May '24.

Wednesday Group

Meetings take place at 2.30pm in the Wesley Room. In September the Group will meet on the 6th and 13th. All are welcome.

East Leeds History & Archaeology Society

Friday September 29th 2pm

Methodist Church Hall Austhorpe Road Cross Gates

Mr David Sellers will deliver an illustrated talk "William Gascoigne, Leeds Astronomer, or how a spider placed Leeds at the forefront of scientific revolution". Admission £2.00 including refreshments. All welcome.

Message from our Senior Steward

Hello Everyone,

I hope you are all having a good summer and the wet weather has not disrupted your plans. Many of you will have heard I am moving house soon, so it has been quite a hectic time for Michael and I. I will still be coming to Cross Gates Church; I couldn't bear to leave it. Hopefully it will all happen in the next couple of weeks, although I don't think anything is certain in the house moving situation until it actually happens!

The Methodist Church is strongly committed to supporting survivors of abuse of any kind and especially abuse that occurred within a Church context. The 'Past Cases Review' challenged the Church to provide better care and support for survivors and the Church took steps to engage with a small group of survivors that now is a recognised advisory group with close links to the Connexional Safeguarding Committee. Out of this, 'Reflect and Respond' evolved, a four-week study guide. These sessions are to be held at Cross Gates. The first session is the 6th September, 7 pm to 9 pm in the Wesley Room. Please see the flyers up on Church noticeboards which give more information and dates. All are welcome to attend these sessions.

Our Church numbers are gradually increasing after covid. We are averaging 45 to 55 worshippers a week and some of those are new folk. Our Junior Church numbers remain low, but constant - nearly always 2 and sometimes 4. Lynda, Jane and Keith do an amazing job with them and there is always a lovely atmosphere in the Wesley room when they have finished their session.

For Harvest, (24th September) the children from Junior Church, Tots and Guests and the Uniformed organisations are decorating the Galilee as they did last year. We do need help to decorate the windowsills and Church though, so any offers of help gratefully received. We plan to use the hymn 'All things Bright and Beautiful' for our theme for the decorations. Ladies Group have offered to do 2 of the windowsills using the verse 'Mountains and Rivers' Any other offers to choose other verses for other windows? Andy Birkett is taking the service and it is going to be All Age Worship. Hopefully some of the Guides, Brownies and Rainbows will be coming.

If you receive worship at home material and no longer require it, please let me know. My number remains the same wherever I will be living!

Love and prayers, **Barbara Lloyd**

Harvest Service on Sunday 24th September

We are asking for donations for the **Harvest Service** of suitable foods for the food bank that our Church has supported so willingly and generously over the years. You can bring your donations to Church any time over the coming weeks. There will also be a collection of money for the food bank so that extra items which are in particularly short supply can be purchased. It is likely to be a particularly challenging year for many, with more people needing the help the food bank provides.

Communities Standing for Change

Earlier this year the Trussell Trust launched 'Guarantee our Essentials', a new campaign in partnerships with the Joseph Rowntree Foundation. The Trussell Trust food banks provided almost 3 million emergency food parcels during the year ending March 2023. This includes almost a million for children.

It's a record high figure, overtaking the peak reached during the pandemic. It's heart breaking that so many people, including over 750,000 people who had to turn to a food bank for the first time, are unable to afford the essentials in one of the richest economies of the world.

Polly Jones, Head of Scotland at the Trussell Trust said 'The social security system is broken. No one could cover the cost of essentials from Universal Credit. There's never been any rationale in the system that links what you get with what things cost.'

That is why, in February, the Trussell Trust launched a UK campaign; Guarantee our Essentials. It calls on the UK Government to enshrine in law that, at a minimum, Universal Credit should protect people from going without essentials.

The Trust has costed up a 'basket of essentials' and found that the minimum rate needs to be at least £120 a week for a single adult – compared to the current £85.

The aim is to get commitments in political party manifestos, ahead of the general election. The Trust asks people to join them in calling for action and says: 'If we can ensure Universal Credit is linked to the cost of essentials, it takes us a long way towards ending the need for food banks.'

Our thanks go to John Best who facilitates our Church congregation to support the local food bank.

Charitable Donations

Thanks to the continuing generosity of the Church family, I have been able to send donations to the various organisations we support. We have received the following thanks:

‘Thank you very much for your incredible support, prayers and generosity this Christian Aid Week. Your gift of £200 on behalf of Crossgates Methodist Church will help families around the world to transform their own lives’

‘I acknowledge with grateful thanks receipt of the £150 donation to meeting Point Café funds. Alongside the ongoing befriending, listening and provision of a safe place, there’s and increased need to provide free or subsidised meals and/or food parcels to people in very real need.’

....with grateful thanks, Alison Lambert, Treasurer.

A Prayer

Gracious God, our world is not as you would have it.
Our systems, our leaders and we ourselves fall short of your glory.
Where potential is not fulfilled, may your kingdom come;
may all creation have life and have it in abundance.
Knowing our world is not as you would have it, may we hear your invitation to be part of the change and build your Church into a beacon of justice and joy. Amen

Tim Baker, local preacher & Churches Manager, All We Can

Save the Date



CHURCH CHRISTMAS FAIR

Saturday 25th November, 10am to 2pm

Christmas cards, gifts, toys, homemade cakes,
tombola

Refreshments: – turkey sandwiches & jacket
potatoes

Proceeds will be shared between Church and a
Charity (to be agreed at the Church Council)

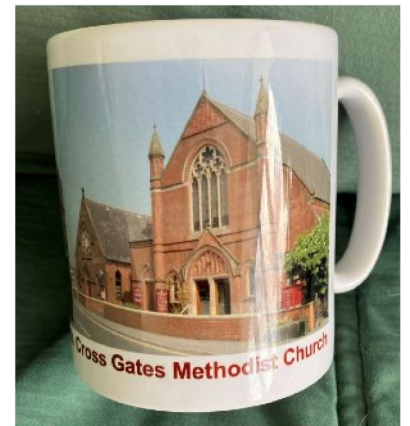
If you can help in any way please contact

Graeme Bentley, gpbentley@outlook.com

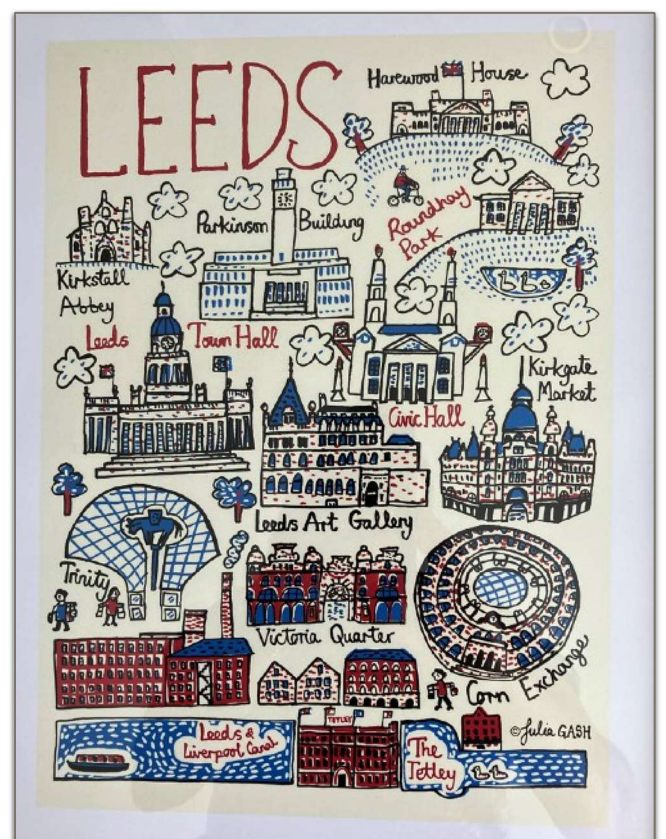
Activities such as this not only raise vital funds for Church and charities but also help us to engage with our local community.



Thank you very much for the picture of Leeds and the mug and coaster of Cross Gates Methodist Church. They will be good reminders of my time here in Leeds, and with Cross Gates. Thank you too for the voucher. I will look forward to spending that, once I've moved. I wonder what it will be... a new waterproof, some more paddle boarding gear... I'll see what tempts me in Go Outdoors or Blacks.



Under GDPR, I will be deleting all the information I hold as your minister, including all addresses and phone numbers. If you want to keep in touch, eg at Christmas, please send me the contact details you would like me to have.



My email address won't change, but my new address and phone number are:
40 The Crossways
Birstall

Leicestershire

LE4 4EB

07438 330039

Condolences: Please remember in your thoughts and prayers Don Oates and family on the death of his wife Ann.

Ann will be greatly missed by many at Church.

Congratulations: to Deborah Carter on the arrival of her first grandchild, Clara Bella, a daughter to Jasmin and Sam Lappage and also great granddaughter to Keith Tingle.

Congratulations: to Cynthia and John Best on celebrating their Diamond Wedding Anniversary.

Service Options: If there are any people or situations you would like included in the prayers in worship, please let Helen 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.

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.

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.

Websites:

Circuit: www.leedsnandemethodist.org.uk

District: www.yorkshirewestmethodist.org.uk

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 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 by email amandajbrow@gmail.com

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

Deadline coming up: **Sunday 17th September.**

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