



CROSSGATES METHODIST CHURCH Dec & Jan 2024/5 Newsletter

MINISTER: Rev Becki Stennett

Hush the Noise

Each year, the Methodist Church produces resources to enable Churches to explore new ways of planning worship and evangelism during Advent and Christmastime.

This year, the theme given is 'Hush the Noise', which is taken from the carol 'It Came Upon the Midnight Clear':

***But with the woes of sin and strife
The world has suffered long;
Beneath the angel-strain have rolled
Two thousand years of wrong;
And man, at war with man, hears not
The love-song which they bring;-
Oh hush the noise, ye men of strife,
And hear the angels sing.***

I was recently asked to be part of a recorded conversation on this theme, and all those invited were given the chance to respond to the question 'which noise(s) are you hoping to hush this Christmas?'

As you know, I'm not usually short of words (!) but preparing my response to this question took several attempts but I couldn't quite put my finger on why.

It's easy, I think, to say I'd like to hush the noise of consumerism, but I think that seems judgmental, and I've always maintained that if people are celebrating Christmas, in whatever way, I'm quite happy about that.

It would also be easy to say that I'd like to hush the noise of busy-ness this holy season, but that's not quite right either, because I think the busy-ness in my diary this season is so closely linked to the people of God wanting to celebrate and share the good news of Jesus' birth that I don't want to get rid of that either.

In the end, I realized that the 'noise' that I'm feeling most bothered by this year is the 'noise' of despair. I think there are many things to feel despairing about – each time I pop the evening news on, or whenever the BBC news app flashes up on my phone, it feels like there's another terrible thing to be so upset and worried about.

And I don't want to hush the noise of the news from around our communities and world which causes distress, because I don't want to ignore it. But I do want to make sure that I try to hear, and enable others to hear, the angels sing. Not literally, though that would be lovely! What I mean is that, through all the awful news that comes to us, we must try to remember that the angels' song was one of peace – that peace can come to the world because of Jesus.

We are part of this angel song, the proclamation of peace, and the building of peace. If we love and follow Jesus, we must be actively seeking to bring peace to our world.

To do this, I think we have to be realistic about the brokenness of the world, but not overwhelmed by despair. It's not easy, I know.

But we are people called to witness to the hope of a better world, possible and close by, if only all would follow the ways Jesus has carved for us.

So I'm not sure if I've yet got my head straight about exactly which noises we should hush this Advent time, but I think a song of joy and hope and peace may just put the din of despair in its place. That is my prayer as we enter December this year. **Rev Becki**

*God of all,
John the Baptist came to bear witness to your light.
Fill us with faith and the courage to act upon it,
So that we may shine a light
In the darkness of these uncertain times. **Amen***

Services in December 2024

1st December	10.30am		Mr Michael Prince
8th December	10.30am	Holy Communion	Revd Becki Stennett
15 th December	10.30am		Mr John Summerwill
21 st December	11am	Carols on Church steps	In aid of Action for Children
22 nd December	4pm	Carol Service	Mr Andy Birkett
24 th December	11.30pm	Holy Communion	Revd Norma Davey
25 th December	11am	All Age Worship	Revd Becki Stennett
29th December	10.30am		Revd Steven Jones

Carols in the Park @ Manston Park

Saturday 21st December, 6.30pm to 7pm

Free mulled wine and mince pies

Please bring a torch or a lantern.

All welcome

(Organised by Connecting Crossgates)

Church Flowers

A correction: The flowers in Church on October 13th were in memory of John Smith's Mum (not Dad). Many apologies for the error.

Flowers on Sunday 3rd November were arranged by Barbara for **Michael Teal**'s funeral and hand-tied flowers were placed in the entrance at the request of Mary.

Flowers on Remembrance Sunday were arranged by Georgina and funded by the Flower Fund.

On 17th November flowers have been donated in memory of **Jean Tingle** by Keith, Deborah and Beverley.

A donation has been received from Pauline Brown in remembrance of **David and Mark**. This will be used at the beginning of December.

Christmas flowers have been donated by Roy and Georgina and also June Holliday in memory of **both families**.

This brings us to the end of the year and Georgina and Barbara thank everyone for their donations and wish everyone a happy and peaceful Christmas.

If you would like Flowers to be arranged in Church for a special reason, please contact Georgina Cressey or Barbara Leeming .

Donations towards the cost is much appreciated.

Ladies Friendship Group

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

26/11/24 – Italy, from the mountains to the sea (Christine Holdstock)

10/12/24 – Christmas carols and songs with Men's Fellowship

17/12/24 – Christmas lunch

Men's Fellowship

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

03/12/24 – Yorkshire Dialect (Eric Scaife)

10/12/24 – Christmas carols and songs with Ladies Friendship Group

17/12/24 – 'Frag Bag' (Bill Ineson)

East Leeds History & Archaeology Society

Friday 30th January 2025, 2pm, Methodist Church Hall

'Keeping it all together' – The conservation challenges facing historic houses by Ian Fraser.

Admission £2 including refreshments. All welcome

Table Top Sales – 1st February & 1st March 2025

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 or phone 0779 904472.

Come along and pick up a bargain!

Monday Coffee Morning

Please come and join us each Monday in the Church Hall between

10:00am and 11:30am. Warming drinks, toasted teacakes and crumpets on offer plus a listening ear if you need one.

After Church Coffee Rota

Dec 1st John Best & Neil Smith, **Dec 8th** Linda Booth & Neil Smith,

Dec 15th Georgina Cressey & Neil Smith, **Dec 22nd** Carol & Neil Smith,

Dec 29th June Holliday & Neil Smith **Jan 5th** John Best & Neil Smith,

Jan 12th Linda Booth & Neil Smith,

Jan 19th Margaret Saysell & Neil Smith,

Jan 26th – David Barrett & Neil Smith



SATURDAY 7th DECEMBER 0930-1400

CROSSGATES METHODIST CHURCH HALL

AUSTHORPE ROAD

BRIC A BRAC

MEN'S & WOMEN'S KIDS & BABY CLOTHES

TOYS, CRAFTS & COLLECTABLES

BOOKS, CD'S & DVD'S & MUCH, MUCH MORE ...

REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE

FREE ENTRY

TO BOOK A TABLE PHONE 07799 094 472



CHRISTMAS FAIR

CROSS GATES METHODIST CHURCH
AN EVENT FOR ALL TO ENJOY

STALLS, CRAFTS, REFRESHMENTS INCLUDING HOT SANDWICHES, RAFFLE, FRESH FLOWER ARRANGEMENTS, CAKES AND MUCH MUCH MORE

SATURDAY 30TH NOVEMBER 2024

10.00AM-2.00PM

AUSTHORPE ROAD

LEEDS

LS15 8QR



EVERYONE WELCOME PLEASE COME AND JOIN US

Christmas Greetings



To the Church Family with best wishes for Christmas and the coming year. **Beryl Gledhill**

I wish all my Church friends a Happy Christmas and all the best for 2025.

Jennie Reeve

Alan and Dorothy Tate wish the Church family a happy Christmas and a healthy New Year

John & Cynthia wish all their friends a Peaceful Christmas and every blessing in 2025.

Cedric and Lynda send Christmas Greetings to all the Church Family and wish everyone a very Happy and Peaceful 2025

Caroline Carr sends Christmas greetings to the whole church family and wishes you all the best for 2025

Wishing all our friends at Cross Gates a very Happy and Peaceful Christmas and New Year. **Geoff and Margaret Yapp**

June Holliday would like to wish Reverend Becki and family a very happy Christmas and a Happy New Year and All PPC members, stewards, readers and communion stewards and those who serve refreshments every Sunday a very Happy Christmas and a Happy New Year

We would like to wish the Church family a very happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year. **Keith & Deborah**

I would like to wish all my Church family a very merry Christmas and a very happy new year, Love **Denise Durkin**

Pam Wilcox sends Christmas blessings to all friends

Wishing the Church family a Happy Christmas and healthy New Year,
Amanda Brow

We wish all our friends at Crossgates Methodist Church a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Peaceful New Year. Love **Jane and Holly** x

Can I wish everyone the compliments of the Christmas Season and hope it's a happy one. **Pauline Brown**

Carol, John and Neil Smith would like to wish all the Church family a Happy, Healthy and Peaceful Christmas and New Year xxx

Christmas greetings to everyone from **Alison and Jodie**

Wishing the Church family a very happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year, **Jean Drake**

Barbara and Michael Lloyd wish all our Church family a very happy Christmas and a healthy and happy New Year.

Happy Christmas to all from **Christine and Richard**

Wishing everyone a peaceful Christmas and a happy and healthy 2025.
Tracy, Aleck and Jessica Dick

(Please forgive any errors or omissions in the greetings)

Many thanks for all your generous donations to Action for Children in lieu of sending cards. We will report back in a future edition on how much was donated.

Thank You..........to all those who work so hard to keep our Church running smoothly. It takes a team to achieve so much, and we are all very grateful to those who undertake tasks, big and small.

Services in January 2025 **(In the Wesley Room)**

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

5 th January	10.30am	Covenant Service with Holy Communion	Revd Joyce Nicholson
12 th January	10.30am		Dr Stanley Pearson
19 th January	10.30am	Covenant Service	Miss Mary Patchett
26 th January	10.30am		Revd George Bailey

The communion steward for January are Carol Smith & June Holliday

Sabbatical

As this is my 7th year of ministry, I am given the gift of a 3 month sabbatical from the Methodist Church. This means that I will be out of circuit ministry from Boxing Day until 26th March 2025. During this time, Rev'd Dr George Bailey will be on call for any Presbyteral support needed at Cross Gates, though he is of course busy with other churches, so it's very much a case of him mostly being on hand in case of great need. During the sabbatical, I'm going to be spending time with family and friends and taking some reflective time in which to read and write around the subjects of meeting around the table, Susanna Wesley and poetry in the Christian tradition. And I hope to get some knitting and crochet projects finished too!

I will miss everyone during this time I'm sure and will appreciate your prayers for a restorative time. **Rev Becki**

A Prayer for peace in the World

Peace is a rose.

So lovely, so delicate, so fragrant,
so easily crushed.

Holy God, let peace flower in our damaged world.

In parched places, let peace take root,
in broken places, let peace send forth strong shoots,
in barren places, let peace bud and bloom,
that all may see her beauty,
feel her softness,

be overcome by her gentle perfume,

And tend her. **Amen**

Sally Jones, presbyter, South Warwickshire Circuit

A Message from our Senior Steward

As the cold weather approaches, I would like to tell you about a plan we are considering. We have applied for a grant from the Methodist District and from Leeds Council, to enable us to offer a 'warm space' to anyone who needs it over the next 3/4 months. This already happens at our current coffee mornings and repair café, where if anyone comes in for refreshments and warmth, they are welcome, irrespective of who they are and whether or not they can pay.

The amount of the grant is not yet certain, but it is considerable. This year we are hoping to expand our service to a Tuesday morning, where anyone will be welcome to come in and have tea, coffee, soup and bread in a warm place with an opportunity to be signposted to agencies that can offer advice if it is required.

This Tuesday session will be a simple affair with a table set with things to make drinks, and chairs but primarily it will be warm and welcoming and will be advertised as a 'warm welcoming space'. We will operate a 'pay as you can' system. There may be folk who just want to get out of the house and so save on their heating bill for the morning, homeless people, or people who want company, or passing footfall who just want light refreshments.

I think the number of volunteers we will need to run this new session will be minimal, but if you are able to help, for an hour or two on any Tuesday morning over the next 3 months, please let me know.

Thank you, ***Barbara Lloyd.***

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

Christmas should be a time of hope and togetherness. But this Christmas thousands of people will find themselves at the doors of a food bank – out of options and out of hope. Many should receive support from the social security system but can't navigate it alone without expert help. Clients at the Trussell Trust not only receive emergency food but also life-changing advice and support that gives hope beyond the Christmas season. Your continued support makes a difference,

There is a basket for your gifts in the Galilee or John Best email jvbest39@hotmail.com who will gladly collect.

Memories of Michael Teal

From the Eulogy: 'At the age of about 3, father was taken to the Sunday school beginner's department of this church, Cross Gates Methodist. He continued to attend, with only a short break, throughout his childhood becoming a full member of the Methodist Church on the 27th of January 1957.

He attended for the rest of his life and served on the church council for decades, as a church steward, on the property committee and a long-standing member of the "men's fellowship". His strong Christian faith was an important part of his life.

Michael was, to me, the Envelope Man. Every year an array of envelopes appeared on the tables in the corridor carefully set out by Michael (with, I suspect, help from Mary). Little did I appreciate the time and effort put into getting them all ready. In June 2019, after 25 years of being Stewardship Recorder, Michael expressed his wish at Church Council to step down. As I had finished working by then I offered to take over and in February 2020 Michael invited me to his house to show me the ropes and be there for me for the first year. Part of the handover included giving me the ledgers which recorded people's offertory giving over the years. It was fascinating to see names I had forgotten from my early days attending Church and also sad to see, as people passed away, a line going through their name. Now Micheal joins those who have gone before as I, with a heavy heart, draw a line through his name in the same ledger he kept for 25 years. He leaves a hole in many of our lives. ***Amanda Brow***

Although I only knew Michael for a relative short time compared to many of the Church Family, he welcomed us to the church and often gave Georgina and I lifts home from Church. He also gave me lifts to the Mens Fellowship when meetings were held on a Monday evening and he would pick me up and then we picked up the late Eric Varley before arriving at Church where we all had difficulty getting out of the car and had to help each other! It got to be quite a joke between us. Happy memories. Michael and Mary also bought us a lovely yellow rose tree for our Golden Wedding a few years ago (yellow was his favourite colour in flowers) which blooms every year and reminds us of them. He will never be forgotten. ***Roy and Georgina Cressey***

I have memories of Michael as how he always greeted you as an old friend. We will all miss his smiles. Condolences to his family.

Pauline Brown

I met Michael when we worked together at the Prudential and I knew he was a member of Cross Gates Church. I told him that in my youth I was a regular worshipper at Trinity Methodist Church in Beeston but had drifted away. I asked him if one Sunday I could join him and we arranged to meet outside Church. We went in together and all the rest is history as they say. Thank you Michael a true gentlemen and friend.

Keith Westbrooke

Several months ago, Michael handed me a box of newsletters to store. They dated back to 1980's and were in bundles of decades tied up with ribbon. Later by chance someone asked me for a newsletter dated Sept 1987. Thanks to Michael's organisational skills I found it straight away.

Barbara Lloyd

I have known Michael since the 1980's when as a teenager, I used to go round to his house on Austhorpe Road and spend time with his son Richard. He always had time for a chat and was kind and thoughtful. For example, driving over to Sheffield late one evening to pick us up after we had overslept on the train from Glasgow or driving to Linton Youth hostel one Sunday to pick us up after we became ill. He was always willing to help out whenever he could and I was very sad to hear of his passing.

Colin Dean

I have two abiding memories of Michael. The first one was when in a meeting he suggested we knock down the Church and build something more suitable for the modern age – quite something for one of our most senior members to advocate and an indication of how forward thinking he was. Secondly when he took the trouble to phone me and let me know that his son Richard had died suddenly. He was aware that Richard and I knew one another, and he said: 'I didn't want you to hear of his death in the prayers at Church on Sunday'. At the darkest of moments for him, he was still thinking of others. ***Tracy Dick***

A Prayer

Bless those who mourn, eternal God, with the comfort of your love that they may face each new day with hope and certainty that nothing can destroy the good that has been given. May their memories become joyful, their days enriched with friendship, and their lives encircled by your love.

Amen

Date for your diary: the AGM will be held on **Sunday 6th April 2025**, after morning service. Everyone is most welcome to attend.

Free phone service to hear prayers and news from the Methodist Church:

Listen to a prayer: 0808 281 2514 and 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 Barbara Lloyd 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.

Your Financial Contributions: Thank you to all those who contribute to the Church's running costs. If you do not attend Church, please continue sending them to the Church's address. *Please note cheques are being paid into the bank less frequently now so do not be concerned.*

Spotlight On: Please consider writing a few words about your life for inclusion in a future Newsletter, as have many of our Church family already. Please send your contribution to Tracy Dick (contact details below).

Newsletter: Please email contributions for the Newsletter to Tracy Dick tracylouisedick@gmail.com Deadlines coming up: 19th Jan 2025, 16th February, 16th March.

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