



MINISTER: Rev Becki Stennett

**CROSSGATES
METHODIST
CHURCH
Newsletter
June 2024**

A Time to Celebrate...?

As I write this, we're just coming to the end of the period of 50 days celebration of Easter, and I'm turning my mind to the next few Sundays where we celebrate Pentecost and Trinity Sunday before moving soon into the long period of 'ordinary time' within the church year.

I love that we have such a long time of celebration for Easter, though I'm not sure we really do it justice sometimes! So I've been looking forward to the afternoon of Pentecost Sunday (which will have passed by the time you read this) and the opportunity to be in one of the pubs in Garforth singing some 'Assembly Bangers': those songs we used to sing at Sunday School or in School Assembly that bring a little nostalgia, but also a great sense of celebration.

Walking into the pub to ask if we could be there on that occasion to sing these songs, I suddenly felt a little self-conscious -not a usual feeling for me! The reason is that, while of course I knew the staff would probably recognise our major times of celebration as Christians (we played music there at Christmas-time, and I was sure that Easter hadn't escaped their notice!) I wondered how I could explain that Pentecost is a time of great celebration for us too, remembering when the Spirit came upon the Apostles and the church was born!

Fortunately, it was no trouble to explain it at all, the staff were very excited about it, and I walked away happy with the plan.

But it made me think – are we known for being a people who celebrate?

I would like us to be!

I wonder if we're known much more for what people perceive as the grumpy side of faith, believing us to be a bunch of people that are boring, strict, intolerant, unwelcoming, often divided.

Throughout the New Testament, we're reminded that we are called to be a people of joy, welcome, celebration! Jesus' first miracle is turning water into wine so that a wedding celebration can continue in full swing! Perhaps there are too many ways over the centuries and in different places that we've been focussed on the nitty gritty, mundane bits of keeping a church going that we've forgotten to first be a people that celebrate life and God's love for each of us.

So, a challenge for us all.

What is there to celebrate?

How can we do it?

How might we share that celebration with our communities and beyond?

Answers on a postcard, by email, or over a coffee please! **Rev Becki**

June Services

2 June – 10.30am		Miss Mary Patchett
2 June – 4pm	Alwoodley Park	Circuit Service
9 June – 10.30am	Holy Communion	Revd Mark Stennett
16 June – 10.30am	All Age/Parade	Revd Becki Stennett
23 June – 10.30am		Mrs Ann Johnson
30 June – 10.30am		Stewards & Worship Leaders

Communion Stewards for June are Denise Durkin & Keith Westbrooke

After Church Coffee

We are very pleased that we are now able to reinstate coffee after each morning service. Please do join us for a hot drink and fellowship.

The rota for June is:

2nd – John Best & Neil Smith

9th – Linda Booth & Neil Smith

16th – Georgina Cressey & Neil Smith

23rd – Carol Smith & Neil Smith

30th – June Holliday & Pam Wilcox

Church Flowers

On the 3rd of May the flowers were donated by **Jennie Reeves in memory of her Dad's birthday and also her two sisters.**

On the 19th May flowers were donated by **Pearl Field in memory of her husband Ronnie** as it would also have been their 70th wedding anniversary.

Carol Smith donated flowers on the 26th May in memory of her Dad.

Thank you all for your donations it means we are able to have flowers almost every week in Church.

If you would like to donate towards the cost of flowers please contact either:

Barbara Leeming

Georgina Cressey

Thank you.

Leeds South and East Foodbank (Trussell Trust) **Helping local people in crisis**

In April your Church delivered 10 baskets of food weighing 144Kg to the Leeds South and East Trussell Trust distribution centre. In the last 2 years this centre has seen an increase of 54% of people relying on them for food. 16,937 local people were supplied with emergency food in 2023 - 2024 and the number still grows.

If you would like to contribute food/toiletries there is a basket in the Galilee or you can contact John Best.

email jvbest39@hotmail.com who will gladly collect.

Monday Coffee Morning

Please come and join us each Monday in the Church Hall between 10:00am and 11:30am if you would like someone to talk to while you enjoy a drink.

Table Top Sales – 1st June & 6th July 9.30am to 12noon

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

Come along and pick up a bargain!

Wednesday Group

This takes place weekly in the Wesley Room at 2.30pm. All welcome.

5/6 – Reuben Chappell – Pierhead Painter 1870-1940 by Roy Cressey.

12/6 – Time for a game of cricket with Alan Tate.

19/6 – How to avoid telephone scams – advice from WPC Laura Bairstow.

26/6 – John Smeaton of Austhorpe – talk by Bob and Jackie Lawrence.

East Leeds History & Archaeology Society

Friday 31st May 2pm

David Glover will deliver an illustrated talk: “Gentleman Jack” – An introduction to Ann Lister 1791 to 1840.

Talks take place in the Methodist Church Hall, Cross Gates and all are welcome. ***Admission £2.00 (including refreshments)***

Music Hour

Wednesday 12th June, 1.15pm to 2.30pm. Cross Gates Methodist Church Hall

Bring an instrument, sing-a-long or just pop in for a cuppa and a biscuit.

Church Christmas Fair

Would you be able to organise or help with organising a Christmas Fair this year? The Fair raises much-needed funds for Church and a chosen local charity. It is also an important part of our outreach work.

Please contact a Steward for more details if you are interested.

Crafting a Fairer Future

You may have noticed that large numbers of wildflowers are sprouting in Leeds city centre. They are bringing joy and a sense of natural regeneration.

Anna Bland is passionate about social and environmental justice. She has set up a craftivism group here in Leeds. Craftivism is activism through craft. The Leeds Craftivists group is part of Leeds Sanctuary (formerly Leeds Methodist Mission). They meet monthly to hear talks from experts, chat about issues that concern them and, after a short meditation, make pieces of art by crocheting, knitting, drawing and painting.

The beautiful items they produce are sent, with letters explaining the group's views on a particular issue, to local council members to call on them to vote for change. One of the group's principles is that as they hope to build a kinder, gentler world, then their actions must be kind and gentle too.

A key focus of the craftivists over the past year has been biodiversity. Members noticed that while parts of Leeds, with their new developments and emphasis on green spaces were good places for wildlife, some of the longer established areas of the city seemed to have been forgotten. So the group launched a campaign to raise awareness of the importance of providing habitats for wildlife and calling on the city council to plant wildflowers to support insects and birds.

Linking to the RSPB's Attack on Nature campaign, calling on national Government to protect biodiversity, the craftivists invited local people to craft two bees – one to send to their local MP, and the second to contribute to the craftivists' local campaign to create a pollinator corridor in Leeds city centre.

The group found that Leeds City Council were receptive to the campaign, and they started planting wildflower seeds across the city. Community members were also encouraged to plant seeds, which they could obtain from the group. A real success story for the Leeds Craftivists!

Their latest campaign focusses on our 'rubbish'. They want to see a food waste collection offered to everyone in Leeds. This would help every household do their bit to reduce emissions and create a more sustainable food system. They are working with two groups; 'Compost-it' and 'Incredible Edible' to stop food waste going to landfill in Leeds. They are aiming to craft enough small pieces of food out of yarn, felt or paper to send one to every councillor in Leeds, with a postcard about the benefits of composting.

To find out more about the group and their campaigns head to the Leeds Sanctuary website: leedssanctuary.org.uk

Prayer

Prayer is foundational to faith.

It is how we communicate with God, and it is the life-giving fuel that powers our actions.

It is the sunshine that brings a smile to our face and brings light to hidden places.

It is the rain that helps new creation grow from the hidden depths.

**For more thoughts on prayer visit the Methodist Church website:
methodist.org.uk**

Eternal and glorious Trinity, for whom we thirst and long; for ever let us desire your light, seek your face and wrap ourselves in the robe of your majesty and love. Amen

Catherine of Sienna (c. 1347 – 1380)

Lord of all, by your amazing grace you gift us with all that we need.

We seek to depend on you,

knowing your love is constant and new each and every day.

We give you thanks this day for the surprising gifts that will meet us in the kindness of others.

And, as your Spirit leads us, may we be an unexpected blessing – sharing Christ's love with others in our actions, thoughts and words.

For the coming of your kingdom we pray, in Jesus' name. Amen

Stephen Lindridge, District Chair, Newcastle Upon Tyne District

The History of Cross Gates Libraries - Part Three **By East Leeds History & Archaeology Society**

The Archive Ambassador Project of 2005 was a brilliant initiative where the West Yorkshire Archive Service, Leeds Library Services and our Society, worked together to create an easier and better way for the local community to access archives and information. This became very popular for those seeking information about their Family History, and was well used not only by the local community but, through the internet, for people throughout the UK, and even from overseas.

The library has been a valuable asset to the local community, and we were delighted to wish it 'Happy Birthday' in 2009 when in December the Library joined forces with us to celebrate its 70th anniversary. This featured a week long series of events. It started with an Open Day on Saturday 12th December where ELHAS arranged for an outside caterer to create a lovely spread of 'finger food' for visitors, and library staff kept tea and coffee flowing. Our archives were opened up for people to look at, many local OS maps proved popular, and colouring and local history quiz's with answers within the Heritage Room were available for children to take part in. Various other activities such as 'Meet the Author' sessions, a family history workshop, carol singing by a local school and an illustrated talk of 'Cross Gates Past and Present' took place later during the week.

In 2016, the 100th anniversary of the tragic accident at the No1 Shell Filling Factory at Barnbow attracted the BBC to come to the Heritage Room in the library. They wanted to film the story of Barnbow and what happened there in December 1916. We then took the film crew to the site of the explosion, and this was later shown on the BBC 'Inside Out' programme. Part of it was also featured on Look North.

Unfortunately, we could not organise anything for the library's 80th anniversary in 2019 due to covid. Early in 2020, we were informed in a meeting with library management, that the library was closing for refurbishment and all our displays had to be dismantled. Some were returned to their owners, and our archive was removed and put into storage. In the few years since then we have had little communication with the library and only found out about its forthcoming sale at the same time as everybody else.

On reflection however, when we look back over the past 25 years or so, we can personally say that being part of ELHAS, and being part of a successful partnership with Leeds Library Services, Leeds Museums and Galleries, and on occasion the West Yorkshire Archive Service, it has been a wonderful creative experience. The librarians and curators we have met have all been friendly, helpful and enthusiastic, and it is always a pleasure to see them. We have met many members of the public who have likewise been warm and friendly towards us. We thank them all for their interest and support as without that support, none of this would ever have happened.

With grateful thanks to Jacki and Bob Lawrence

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.

Service Options: 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.

Websites: Circuit: www.leedsnandemethodist.org.uk
District: 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.

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 (see below for contact details)

Newsletter: Please email contributions for the Newsletter to Tracy Dick tracylouisedick@gmail.com Deadlines coming up:
Sunday 16th June (July and August editions), Sunday 25th August

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