



CROSSGATES METHODIST CHURCH October 2024 Newsletter

MINISTER: Rev Becki Stennett

'I don't know where prayers go,
or what they do.

Do cats pray, while they sleep
half-asleep in the sun?

Does the opossum pray as it
crosses the street?

The sunflowers? The old black oak
Growing older every year?

Recently, in one of the churches that I minister to, it was a privilege to be part of choosing and presenting books to each of the young people in the Junior Church. It's the second year of trying to resurrect a yearly tradition of gift-giving, a presentation day for the young people of the Church, and this year, the theme for the books we chose was 'prayer'.

The books all had really appealing names, like 'The Prayer Experiment', 'The Prayer Map for Teens', and 'What every Child Should Know About Prayer'. Each had been researched and considered, then matched with each child according to their age, stage and nature, and it was an absolute joy to present them.

But as I enjoyed the books being presented to each of the children, with the love and prayers of the Church, I couldn't help but reflect in the moment that probably every one of the people there would love some more guidance on what prayer is all about!

The words at the top of the page are taken from a poem by Mary Oliver called 'I Happened to be Standing', in which she puts into words some of the confused thoughts that many of us perhaps have about what prayer might be. It's not a straightforward subject!

The questions asked in Oliver's poem might seem strange, but I encourage you to read them again once or twice. They don't necessarily become less strange in the re-reading, but I think the more I ponder these

questions I'm more drawn into the brilliant way they open up the scale and depth of the mystery that surrounds prayer.

Perhaps we know that prayer is about speaking to God, and we know it's important (because we've been told it is, and that we should do it every day), but as to where our prayers go and what happens after we've uttered them, there are mysteries on mysteries and little chance we can ever understand this side of glory!

For what it's worth, I know that I can't fully understand prayer, but I feel so privileged that God invites me to speak and ask for things, that I know that I want to pray, even though I don't make enough time for the many different prayers I'd like to pray! I want to pray like a cat half-asleep in the sun, where from my contentedness I utter gratitude for the smallest of happy moments. I want to pray like the opossum crossing the street, trusting in God to hear my worries and uncertainties, and to accompany at times of fear. I want to pray like a sunflower, turning always to the light of God, and like an oak that is growing old, wondering if the world can ever change for the better, bringing my deep and desperate longing for a world at peace to one far more immovable than I am.

Our uncertainties about prayer can make us unwilling to engage with it, I think.

This season, as the wonders of autumn fall, I invite you to consider the mysteries of the world, of God, and of prayer, and to allow gratitude to exude from you, worries to be uttered under your breath, and concerns for the world laid heavily down as you turn to God throughout the changing days, and know that, if nothing else about it makes sense, God is listening to you. **Rev Becki**

October Services

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|--------------|----------------|-----------------------|
| 6th October | Holy Communion | Revd Joyce Nicholson |
| 13th October | | Mr John S. Summerwill |
| 20th October | | Revd Becki Stennett |
| 27th October | | Revd Steven Jones |

The communion stewards for October are Carol Smith & June Holliday

Church Flowers

Flowers on the 1st September were from **Brenda Dean's funeral** and were donated by her family. On 15th September flowers in Church and the entrance were donated by **Roy and Georgina Cressey in memory of Roy's mum.**

Flowers on the 22nd September are from **Edna Waites' funeral.** Georgina and Barbara thank everyone who has donated flowers this month.

The late Brenda Dean

The family of Brenda Dean, Bee (Barbara), Colin, Stephen and families would like to say a big thank you for the support given during mum's illness this year. Mum and Dad started coming to this Church in 1972 and we all went to Sunday School, guides and scouts. Over the years Mum and Dad took an active part in the Church. Mum taught in the Sunday School in Upper Juniors and was president of Young Wives/Senior Wives/Friendship Group. She helped out on scout camps as Dad was a scout leader. As was said at the funeral, Mum was the person in the kitchen with a tea towel and big smile. This Church has been an important part of their lives and we would like to thank the congregation and ministers for this.

We would like to thank the support given during the funeral and thanksgiving service for Mum. It was lovely to see so many of you and exchange memories. We would like to thank those that helped with the refreshments and to give special thanks to Barbara Lloyd for answering our questions, coordinating and supporting and also to Joyce for the lovely services. This all helped making it an uplifting event. Thank you for the donations to the Motor Neurone Disease Association which Mum requested in memory of Dad. Together we raised £180.

Bee Jenkins (Brenda's daughter)

East Leeds History & Archaeology Society

Methodist Church Hall Austhorpe Road Cross Gates

Friday 25th October 2.00pm

'The War on the Home Front 1914 -1918' by Mike Turpin

Admission £2.00. All welcome

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 or posted to Church.

Tracy Dick tracylouisedick@gmail.com

Building Something New - An Update on Building Projects at Cross Gates Methodist Church

As you will know, we've been looking at some changes to the building here at Cross Gates Methodist Church, and we've been truly delighted by the financial support and enthusiasm that has been behind this work so far. I thought it would be a useful moment to summarise this work, so that there is clarity for everyone, and reason to get more excited too!

The Cellar: The cellar at Cross Gates, under the main church building, is absolutely huge, and hasn't been used for anything more than storage for some time. We are currently gathering funds to renovate the cellar space, with the intention of it being used for youth work. The youth work would be done by Missional Generation, a Christian youthwork organisation which currently operates out of one of our upstairs office spaces, and they would move into the cellar once it has been renovated to become part office and part drop-in area. This would mean that not only could Missional Generation run their administration and management from the centre of Cross Gates, but youth work could be actively happening in the building too. The project is not a huge one, but requires funds we currently don't have, and so we are acquiring grant funding alongside the generous gifts of those who have donated and will proceed with the work as soon as we can.

Longer Term: One of the realities that faces the current congregation and Church Council of Cross Gates Methodist is that the building we worship in is vast, underused, and ageing. Without some very large scale changes, there is simply no way that we can expect to keep this building for many more years. As such, permission has been granted by the Circuit Meeting for us to explore a project, by applying for grants and help with feasibility studies, to include architectural feasibility of a range of possibilities, and community audit work to clarify what purposes for a re-ordered building would best serve Cross Gates. This project will likely encompass every bit of the church building from floor to ceiling, probably including putting in at least another floor, and radically redrawing the inside to provide spaces that make a difference in our amazing location. Reasonably, we would keep a place to worship as a non-negotiable element in whatever the eventual design will be, and I look forward to seeing how a reimagined space would lead to better uses for both the church and community, and I'm sure it would bring with it a re-invigorated sense of what church is called to be and do. This is not a short-term sort of project, so your ongoing prayers and support will be most welcome indeed.

In particular please pray for:

- 1) A newly established Missional Property Group who will lead the conversation and planning of this project
- 2) For the funding for feasibility studies to come quickly so the plan doesn't stagnate
- 3) For God to demonstrate to us, through prayer and conversation, the best ways to be present to the Cross Gates community of the decades ahead.

Please do get in touch if you have any questions or queries, I think it's an exciting time! **Rev Becki**

Church Refurbishment Appeal – Gift Day

Thank you to everyone who gave so generously at our Gift Day on August 10th. So far, we have received £1260.00 from individual donations, £400.31 from the Table Top sales outside Church during the summer and £60.00 from Sunday Coffee, which includes the sale of cakes after the Gift Day. This totals £1720.31 which is a fabulous amount to raise in such a short time.

If you haven't had the opportunity to donate as yet, there is still time, as fundraising for the Building Project is ongoing. Please speak to a Steward, Alison Lambert, Amanda Brow or Linda Booth if you still wish to make a donation or would like further information.

Once again, I thank you all for your generosity.

Alison Lambert, Church Treasurer

Christmas Fair Meeting – Tuesday 1st October 7pm

As you know we are holding the Church Christmas Fair on **Saturday 30th November, 10am to 2pm**. We are currently raising funds for the Church Refurbishment Appeal so we are hoping to make more money than ever this year both to help with this Appeal and also to provide a donation towards the general running costs of our Church. *To do this we need your help.*

So we can discuss plans and run the best Fair possible we are holding an open meeting in the Wesley Room on **Tuesday 1st October at 7pm**. Everyone is welcome to come along and hear about current ideas, offer your thoughts and find out about how you might be able to play your part.

PS If you have anything for the general tombola and chocolate tombola, items we can sell or any other contributions you can bring them along with you (or drop them off if you can't stay for the meeting).

Table Top Sales – 5th October & 2nd November

Why not join us for a breakfast bap and then a stroll round the sale to pick up a bargain.

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.

Come along and pick up a bargain!

Ladies Friendship Group

Meetings are at 2.30pm in the Wesley Room on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month. *All welcome.*

8/10/24 – ‘Cruise to Pompeii, Part 2’, Roy Cressey

22/10/24 – ‘Susanna Wesley’, Revd Becki Stennett

Men’s Fellowship

Meetings are at 2.30pm in the Wesley Room on the first and third Tuesdays of the month. *All welcome.*

1/10/24 – ‘Susanna Wesley’, Revd Becki Stennett

15/10/24 – ‘Yorkshire Shipping 3’, Roy Cressy

Making A Will

We spend our lives working to provide for ourselves and our loved ones. So it is good practice to have an up to date Will whatever your personal circumstances. Making your Will means you can be certain that your wishes are followed after your death.

Making a Will is often seen as a very sensitive subject, one which many people prefer to put off until a later date. However, having a Will can make life much easier for our loved ones when the time comes. A Will is the only way to make sure money, property and possessions go to the people and causes we care about.

After you have provided for family and loved ones giving even relatively small amounts to charities and other causes such as our Church can make a real difference. Our Church has been remembered in the Wills of several members over the years and their generous contributions have helped our finances considerably.

In October St Gemma’s Hospice will again be holding ‘Make a Will Month’ where local solicitors waive their fees in exchange for a donation to the Hospice. For more information visit their website www.st-gemma.co.uk or phone 0113 218 5555 for a leaflet.

If you would find it helpful to have a conversation about what you want to happen after your death, whether about your funeral service, leaving money to the Church, or more generally about the end of life, please do get in touch with Revd Becki Stennett.

Cross Gates Wesleyan Institute World War 1 Memorial Plaque – Christine Holdstock

In addition to the World War One Memorial in the Church (I wrote about the men named on this memorial in 2021 newsletters), there is another memorial in the cellar, which will be soon moved up to the Church. In 1907-8 the Church premises were considerably enlarged by the addition of the Chancel, Transept, Lecture Hall and Institute, increasing the seated accommodation to 652. The Institute was a place for young men to meet, play snooker and read. When war broke out upwards of one hundred members of the Institute joined His Majesty's forces. The Institute remained open during the War; members who had answered their country's call met there when on furlough. It was enlarged after the end of the war to provide better facilities for returned soldiers.

This Oak Memorial to the 13 members who had fallen during the war, was placed on the wall of the Institute at that time.

The re-opening of the Institute and unveiling of the Memorial Tablet took place on 11th October 1919.

Of the 13 men whose names are on the memorial, seven are also on the memorial in Church and you can read about them in the September-December 2021 newsletters. When I saw the Institute Memorial I decided to try to find out more about the other six men named there.



Information about the six men will feature in the November edition of this newsletter.

Sources

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

Skyrack Courier 17th 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/>

Condolences: to the family and friends of Jean Hornshaw who died recently.

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.

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 October is: 6th John Best & Neil Smith, 13th Linda Booth & Neil Smith, 20th Margaret Saysell & Neil Smith, 27th Pam Wilcox & 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 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. If you would like to change to contributing via **standing order** please get in touch with Amanda Brow. She can be contacted, email amandabrow@gmail.com

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

Deadlines coming up: Sunday 13th October, 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