



CROSSGATES METHODIST CHURCH September 2024 Newsletter

MINISTER: Rev Becki Stennett

Hope and Anchor

Each year, over August Bank Holiday weekend, my family and I spend time together with friends and thousands of friends we haven't met yet at Greenbelt festival. Once upon a time, the festival was tagged as a 'Christian arts' festival, but now carries the tag line 'Artistry. Activism. Belief'. Now held in the beautiful grounds of Boughton House, near Kettering, it's a celebration of faith and spirituality and searching, as well as a deep call to activism and making the world a bit more beautiful in all sorts of ways.

It's the weekend in the year that I think feeds me and fills me up most—even when we have to contend with gale force winds and torrential rain as per this year! Whether it's Beer and Hymns, listening to brilliant poets or speakers, the communion service for thousands on Sunday morning, or just catching up with people in a relaxed place, it's a place where I find rest and restoration.

One of the things I enjoyed most this year was the Methodist Church venue 'The Hope and Anchor'. I'll freely admit that I've not spent too much time in this venue before, partly because I worry about it feeling too close to work, and partly because, as a newer venue, I think it's taken a little while to find its stride. The Hope and Anchor venue and team tours festivals, offering a dry bar and a place for intentional and difficult conversations, as well as a place to play games and catch up.

This year, I was blest to be in a really helpful talk about Baby Loss (of which I have experience) and also to host a conversation entitled 'God help us with Gender Constructs' in which two highly regarded and hugely

intelligent Christians who are also trans-women shared with great insight and vulnerability about their experiences, and enabled a compassionate space of learning and listening together as we look to always becoming more and more welcoming and inclusive of all people.

As I reflect on the blessings I received in these talks, I can hear in my mind's ear the strains of the band that had played on Friday afternoon a soulful folk version of 'Will Your Anchor Hold?', that wonderful hymn which declares 'We have an anchor that keeps the soul steadfast and sure as the billows roll'. I'm reminded that, even in the most challenging times, we can hold onto God who is with us always, always ready to weather storms with us and encourage us onto wonderful new seas to explore.

I wonder how, as the Methodist Church year opens itself, we as the people called Methodist, can show people that there is hope, and an anchor for all in changing, challenging times. **Rev Becki**

September Services

1st September	10.30am – All Age	Rev Becki Stennett
8 th September	10.30am	Dr Paul Coleman
15th September	10.30am – Holy Communion	Rev Steven Jones
22 nd September	10.30am	Mrs Catherine Frieze
29th September	4pm – Harvest Festival	Rev Becki Stennett

The Communion Stewards for September are John Best & Roy Cressey

Church Flowers

During July flowers were provided by some excess funds in the flower fund.

On 2nd August Shirley Clough donated flowers in memory of her **brother Ray and her husband Roy Clough**.

On 18th August flowers were donated by **Tracy Dick to celebrate her and Aleck's 40th wedding anniversary**.

June Holliday donated the entrance flowers in memory of her **late brother's 70th birthday**.

Georgina and Barbara continue to thank everyone for their kind donations. Please contact Georgina in Church or Barbara if you wish to donate for flowers in Church. Even a small amount helps us provide fresh flowers for Church and the entrance for all to enjoy. Thank you.

A Message from our Senior Steward

We have a date for your diary. Our Church Harvest Festival will be held on the **29th September**. There will be **no morning service** that day and we would like to invite you to a service at 4 pm at Church, followed by a Harvest Tea, and then a Social. Nearer the time there will be a form for you to complete so we can get an idea of numbers for the food and also so that we will be aware of anyone with any food allergies. Please try and keep this date clear so that we can all celebrate Harvest together as a Church family.

Something good happened today; an organist/Deacon from Eccles Congregational Church in Bolton, had asked to come and play our organ. By his own admission he was a bit of an 'organ nerd!' and goes round the country playing interesting organs. He had come to Leeds and had been to 3 other churches before ours playing their organs. He said ours was the most interesting! There was only he and I in church and I opened the front doors so folk outside could listen. He played for an hour and several people gathered at the back of Church to listen. He recorded his playing and took photos to put on a 'world wide web page for organ enthusiasts' The best part was actually having people stop to listen, and we did get £5 in donations! Love and prayers, ***Barbara Lloyd***

Refurbishment Appeal

Many thanks to everyone who attended the 'Gift Day' and whilst not many of you could attend the day in person our fundraising efforts have been very encouraging so far and we are very grateful for all the generous donations. Contributions are still being received but once we have a clearer idea of how much has been raised so far, this will be shared with the Church Family.

If you have not yet donated to the **Refurbishment Appeal** but would like to do so, there is still time. Donations of cash or cheques can be put into the yellow envelopes at Church. Please mark them clearly 'Refurbishment Fund'. If it is more convenient for you, donations can be made via bank transfer. Please have a word with one of the Finance Team (Alison, Amanda, Linda, Deborah) for all the details you need, or they can be provided on email by Tracy Dick.

This will be an ongoing Appeal as apart from our ambitious plans for the basement, our ageing Church requires constant maintenance. Many thanks to the team who held Table Top sales outside Church in August, raising nearly £500. Half of the profits from the Christmas Fair will also be dedicated to the Appeal. Any ideas for future fundraising would be most welcome and should be passed on to one of the Stewards.

Table Top Sales

7th September & 5th October - 9.30am to 12 noon

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!

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

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.

Ladies Friendship Group

The Ladies Friendship Group meetings will restart on 10th September with 'Bingo and Chat' at 2.30pm in the Wesley Room.

Meetings will continue on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month.
All welcome.

Wednesday Group

Meetings take place at 2.30pm in the Wesley Room. In September the Group will meet on the 4th and 11th. All are welcome.

Men's Fellowship

Meetings take place fortnightly at 2pm in the Wesley Room on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month. The programme starts on 1st October with Rev Becki Stennett giving a talk on Susanna Wesley. All welcome.

East Leeds History & Archaeology Society

The next meeting will take place:

Friday 27th September 2pm

Dr Patricia Bourne will give an illustrated talk entitled: 'An A to Z of Leeds Facts, Part One.'

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

After Church Coffee

Please do join us for a hot drink and fellowship after each morning service. The rota for September is:

1st September – John Best & Neil Smith

8th September – Linda Booth & Neil Smith

15th September – Georgina Cressey & Neil Smith

22nd September – Carol Smith & Neil Smith

29th September – June Holliday & Neil Smith

Regular Circuit Activities

Natter Café at Moortown Church Centre, Mondays 10am to 12.30pm. Come and enjoy refreshment and fellowship.

Kidz Blast (for 3 to 11 year olds) at Meeting Point, first Saturday of the month, 10am to 12 noon. Crafts, games, songs, bible stories and lunch with parents.

East Leeds Repair Café at Cross Gates Methodist Church Hall, 3rd Saturday of the month, 11am to 3pm. Bring your broken items for repair.

Messy Church at Moortown Church Centre, 3rd Saturday of the month, 9.30am to 11am.

New Leaders Take Up Their Roles

The new President and Vice-President of the Methodist Conference have taken up their roles. The President, the Revd Helen Cameron, and Vice-President, Mrs Carolyn Godfrey, were inducted at the end of June during the Methodist Conference in Leeds.

Prior to her appointment, Helen was the Chair of the Northampton District. She is Moderator of the Free Churches Group (FCG) and President of Churches Together in England. She represented the FCG at the late Queen's funeral, reading prayers during the service, and was present at the coronation of King Charles. Originally from Yorkshire, Helen, who is married with three adult children, has worked extensively with sexual abuse survivors.

Carolyn, who grew up in Lincolnshire and is married with two adult children, is the District Safeguarding Officer covering the Darlington and Newcastle Districts and is a local preacher. She has a background in pastoral care and child protection within the education system, supporting children with additional needs and families facing complex issues.

Charitable Donations

The following letters of thanks have been received:

From Christian Aid: Thank you so much for your incredible support, prayers and generosity this Christian Aid Week. Your gift of £185.40 will help families in and around the world to transform their own lives. In Burundi you can see the lasting difference gifts like yours make for people like Aline. Aline felt the full force of extreme poverty when early marriage ended in abuse and violence. Separated from her six children she was forced to sleep on the streets of Burundi, pushed to the brink of survival.

But Aline transformed her life with a little help from Christian Aid and our partners in Burundi. Aline accessed vital training and support that helped her nurture a small income that enabled her to buy and grow nutritious food, build a home to call her own and return her children to her side.

Aline can now look ahead: she hopes to expand her business and secure financial security for her family as she gets older. She says: ***'This is not a dream. It is a plan, and I will do it. I am a woman who is an achiever.'***

It is thanks to people like you that this transformation has been possible for Aline and her family. Thank you, Cross Gates Methodist Church, for your life changing gift.

Aline says: ***'When we see Christian Aid, we feel comforted, we feel we are not alone.'***

From UNICEF: Thank you so much for raising £117.05 to support UNICEF's vital work for children. Your kind jars of Grace gift will help protect children in emergencies, providing immediate life saving supplies and lasting support to help families rebuild their lives.

Thanks to the commitment of all our dedicated supporters, UNICEF ensures more of the world's children are vaccinated, educated and protected than any other organisation. We have done more to influence laws and policies to help protect children than anyone else. In 190 countries and territories we are working to save children's lives, to defend their rights and to help them fulfil their potential from early childhood through adolescence. And we never give up.

Children are at the heart of everything we do, and it's because of supporters like you that we can reach children all around the world with life-saving essential support that they need. Thank you for helping us be there for the world's most vulnerable children.

Alison Lambert, Church Treasurer



CHURCH CHRISTMAS FAIR

Saturday 30th November, 10am to 2pm

Please help make this a success by:

- Providing items for a general tombola.
- Donating chocolate (all sizes and varieties) for an enticing chocolate tombola.
- Baking cakes for sale.
- Giving items to sell (particularly anything Christmas themed).
- Offering to help on the day (this could be running a stall, setting up at the beginning or tidying up at the end – the choice is yours).
- **Coming along yourself and spreading the word to family and friends.**

Proceeds will be shared between general Church funds and Church building projects.

*If you can help in any way, please contact
Tracy Dick, tracylouisedick@gmail.com*

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

Leeds South and East Foodbank (Trussell Trust)

Helping local people in crisis

In July we delivered 10 baskets of food and toiletries (weighing 124KG) to the Trussell Trust South- East Leeds Distribution Centre. These included cereal, UHT milk, rice pudding, tinned fish, tinned tomatoes, pasta and biscuits.

The Trust reports that right now, food donations are not keeping up with the increasing level of need.

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.

Condolences: to the family and friends of Brenda Dean and Edna Waite who both died recently.

Congratulations: to Tracy & Aleck Dick on their 40th Wedding Anniversary and to Beryl Gledhill on her 90th birthday.

Service Options: If there are any people or situations you would like included in the prayers in worship, please let Barbara Lloyd 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 at 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 22nd 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