



CROSS GATES METHODIST CHURCH NEWSLETTER DEC 2011- JAN 2012

MINISTER : Reverend . Francesca Rhys M.A.

Dear Friends

There are lots of opportunities through Advent and over Christmas and New Year to join in worship and remind ourselves of the heart of the message: God being revealed on earth for all in Jesus Christ. Among the services and events are those especially geared towards children and their families. So, invite them along to these! God wants all ages to be influenced by the inspiration of Jesus Christ's life on earth.

The last 40-50 years have seen an unprecedented rate of change: information and entertainment have multiplied, work and family patterns have changed. Diversity and choice are everywhere. The church is continuing to learn how to relate to people from different backgrounds, cultures, and 'networks'. This kind of challenge is nothing new for the church. Throughout Christian history, new forms of church have emerged as times and needs have changed. We believe God still exists! God wants the good news of more wholesome living, of leaning on the wisdom of Jesus Christ, to go on being heard and to go on changing lives.

One form of church that is springing up around the country has been coined *Messy Church* as a way of emphasizing its informality and participation. Messy Church doesn't usually take place on Sunday mornings, though there's nothing to say it can't happen then.

The important challenge is to find a time when family members with children can spend some time together, with other families, in Christian exploration. Messy Church usually starts with families and children playing games or doing craft activities relevant to the Christian season or theme. That's followed by singing some seasonal and favourite songs. Next comes some Christian teaching or a Bible story told in a child-friendly way, such as with puppets or DVD. Messy Church concludes with tea. A donation is requested per household. This is similar to the model that we've used for the successful fun days, though the suggestion is that Messy Church could take place every month for just 1 to 1 ½ hours at a time.

A questionnaire about starting a regular Messy Church has been prepared for parents, grandparents, and carers of children, for junior church teachers and helpers at this year's fun days. Any other church members who would like to fill in a questionnaire can get one from the vestry. Please hand in your questionnaire to any Steward by 1st January 2012.

Change or new initiatives can be scary. The unknown can be uncomfortable. But we take heart from the metaphor from Jesus Christ to his disciples. After a weary night with no catch, he asked them to try fishing for people from the other side of their boat. (John 21:6)

Come and join in the journey this Advent, Christmas, and New Year - Revd Fran

Diane and Fran hope that everyone receives God's encouragement and love this Advent, Christmas, and New Year.

Services at Cross Gates in December 10.30am & 6.00pm

4 th	Rev Philip Bee	pm	Rev Robert Creamer
11 th	Rev Francesca Rhys	pm	No Service
18 th	Mrs Karen Pattison	4pm	Carol Service
25 th	11am Rev Francesca Rhys	pm	No Service

Services at Cross Gates in January 2012 10.30am & 6.00pm

1 st	Rev Francesca Rhys (Covenant Service)	pm	No Service
8 th	Mr Rob Lolly	4pm	Joint Service at Roundhay
15 th	Mrs Sue Mason	pm	Rev Francesca Rhys (Healing & Wholeness)
22 nd	Rev Keith Reed	pm	Deacon Gillian Trinder
28 th	Rev Francesca Rhys	pm	No Service

Communion Services in December and January

Sunday 4 th December	6 pm	Revd Robert Creamer
Tuesday 6 th December	11 am	(At Tranquility Court MHA Scheme)
Sunday 11 th December	10.30am	
Friday 16 th December	9.30 am	(Note earlier time, because of Cross Gates Primary Carols in church)
Sunday 1 st January	10.30 am	(Covenant Sunday)
Sunday 3 rd January	11 am	(At Tranquility Court)
Sunday 15 th January	6 pm	with prayers for healing and wholeness
Friday 27 th January	10 am	

Coffee Mornings in December 2011—10.00—11.30 am

Friday 9 th	Church (No stalls)
Friday 30 th	Gifts of cakes, bric-a-brac will be gratefully received
Every Monday	Age Concern
Every Saturday	Church Coffee Morning

Coffee Mornings in January 2012 10.00—11.30 am

Friday 6 th	Tranquility Court
Friday 13 th	Church (No stalls)
Friday 27 th	Gifts of bric-a-brac will be gratefully received
Every Monday	Age Concern
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Christian Unity Week – January 18th—25th January 2012

Each Church in turn in Leeds 15 will be open for one hour between 12-noon and 1.00-pm.

Wednesday 18th	St. Theresa's Crossgates
Thursday 19th	Crossgates Methodist Church
Friday 20th	St. Mary's Whitkirk
Monday 23rd	Colton Methodist Church
Tuesday 24th	St. Wilfreds Halton
Wednesday 25th	St. James Manston

A Taste of Taize—Sunday 4th December

You are invited to meet at St James the Great Manston Parish Hall

4.00pm	Short DVD about life in Taize
4.30pm	Learn some Taize songs
5.15pm	Simple Taize-style Supper
5.55pm	Quiet Procession to Church
6.00pm	Taize Service

Come to as much or as little as you like.

Churches Together Leeds LS15

The proceeds from the Christmas Crib in the Crossgates Shopping Centre will go to the Elizabeth Svensee Donkey Sanctuary where disabled children and adults learn to ride.

Macmillan Coffee Morning

Our Church Coffee morning for Macmillan Cancer support on the 25th September raised £100.00 We have just received a big thank you from Hannah Redmond and her team. They call it the worlds biggest coffee morning and they are still receiving donations. Thanks to all

Joan Jackson

Fun Day

The 'Colour My World' Fun Day was a great success attended by 33 children and 16 parents/carers. A big 'thank you' goes to the 16 helpers that made this day so successful.

Our Beavers and Cubs Concert
Thursday 8th December @ 6.30pm
The Cubs and Beavers will present their annual
performance of their nativity play
which will be held in the Church

We hope you will come along to support and encourage the children
who have put a lot of effort into this production. After weeks of practice and rehearsal they
proudly present

The Sleepy Shepherd
This promises to be every bit as good as last year and
everyone is warmly invited.
There will be refreshments in the school room.

New Methodist Circuit in North and East Leeds Staff News

Circuit Meetings in Leeds East and Leeds North East have voted that Robert Creamer be appointed as the superintendent for the new circuit, coming into being in September 2013 at the latest. Fran Rhys' invitation has been extended until August 2014. George Bailey has accepted the invitation to be a presbyter in the Leeds North East Circuit focusing on Roundhay and Thorner. George is married to (another!) Fran and they have four children, and he is currently in the Leeds Wesley Circuit in Horsforth. Jane Craske will become superintendent for the Lowestoft and East Suffolk Circuit in the East Anglia District and John McNeil will be going to Scotland.

Quiet Day for Advent

An opportunity to spend a day in quiet reflection pondering the themes of the season.

Venue: The Mirfield Centre

Date: Saturday, 10th December 2011—10:00 am to 3:30 pm

Course Leader(s): Fr Simon Holden, CR **Cost:** £ 16.50 (includes lunch and refreshments)**More details from** The Mirfield Centre

tel.: 01924 481920

e-mail: centre@mirfield.org.uk

Saturday 21 January, 10 am – 3.30 pm “Living Well” with Revd Alan Hargrave at the Mirfield Centre. Alan draws on ‘rules of life’ from Benedict to Iona, to enable us to think seriously about the pattern of our living. £16.50.

Trust in Fairtrade at an all-time high

Public support for Fairtrade continues to be on the rise worldwide with shoppers increasingly expecting businesses to be more accountable and fair in dealing with producers in developing countries, according to a new global survey. In the UK where support is said to be holding up well despite the difficult economic times, half of consumers are said to be regularly purchasing Fairtrade products at least once a month.

A contributing factor to this is the increasing number of places of worship awarded Fairtrade status. This currently stands at around 4000, of which up to 1450 are local Methodist churches.

Since 2001, when there were hardly any, there has been a steady year on year increase in growth of Fairtrade status throughout the Methodist Connexion.

In order to qualify as a Fairtrade church, the congregation must commit itself to serving Fairtrade tea and coffee after services and in all meetings for which it has responsibility. It should also move forward on using other Fairtrade products such as sugar, biscuits, fruit etc and promote the idea of Fairtrade in the community throughout the year.

The global study of 17000 consumers, carried out by international opinion research consultancy GlobeScan, also showed that Fairtrade is the most widely recognised ethical label globally. Nearly six in 10 customers (57 per cent) across the 24 surveyed countries have seen the Fairtrade certification mark, with highest recognition in the UK.

John Singleton

THE CHURCH CHRISTMAS PARTY

The Church Christmas Party comes but once a year but when it comes it brings good cheer
You are all invited to join us in an evening of fun, games, quizzes and dances on

FRIDAY 9th DECEMBER

We start at 7.00-pm with a cooked meal to warm you and finish with a sing-song, biscuits and coffee

Plus a special visit from SANTA

Come along and bask in that old yuletide spirit and all we ask is that you make a **Donation** to defray the expense

“The Crossgates Players “will be presenting a

World Premier Performance
of a pantomime!!!



SEE YOU ALL THERE

The Concept of Marriage

The child was a typical four-year-old girl - cute, inquisitive, bright as a new penny.

When she expressed difficulty in grasping the concept of marriage, her father decided to pull out his wedding photo album, thinking visual images would help.

One page after another, he pointed out the bride arriving at the church, the entrance, the wedding ceremony, the recessional, the reception, etc.

"Now do you understand?" he asked.

"I think so," she said, "is that when mommy came to work for us?"