



## CROSS GATES METHODIST CHURCH NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2011

**Minister :** Reverend Francesca Rhys M.A.

Dear Friends,

Perhaps like many of you, I have mixed feelings about getting to September with its emphasis on a return to routine and to some (even) cooler weather. But steady rhythm in life can be good for us. There's been an unfair share of "midsummer madness" this summer, with the riots, looting, and sentencing of several thousand young people in our country; with renewed financial turmoil round the world; some major pastoral issues nearer to home; and some upheavals in the process of creating a new Methodist Circuit in North and East Leeds. So perhaps a return to more normal routines, with school life and fellowship groups, work patterns and committee meetings may be helpful (she says hopefully!) Of course, for some of you there are some distinctively new and challenging horizons ahead.

There's been a lot of reflecting in the media about the riots and looting. Some of it has looked at the larger picture we're in, as a society, and how there seems to be an erosion of what is considered right and wrong. That can be at the level of the rioters/looters, or at the level of MP's fiddling expenses, journalists hacking into mobile phones, wealthy individuals and corporations evading taxes by banking overseas, an unrealistic level of borrowing and credit to fuel our lifestyles, or investment bankers gambling with money that people are trying to save. We can identify an erosion of integrity, a blatant pursuit of greed at many different levels of society. Sometimes the church gets it wrong about right and wrong, and has had to admit its mistakes and acknowledge a change of position, but the church does go on claiming we can discern what is right and what is wrong.

The Bible is full of passages about economic and social justice – one in every seventeen verses is related to these issues. As we heard one Sunday in August from Isaiah 56:1 "This is what God says: Maintain justice, and do what is right, for soon my salvation will come, and my deliverance be revealed."

It can feel overwhelming about what contribution we, as individuals, can hope to make, to help usher in God's salvation and deliverance. But one thing we can do is to invite people to church! Invite them for Back to Church Sunday / the harvest festival on September 25<sup>th</sup>. Invite them to the church, one of the traditional upholders of right and wrong! The church as a learning-ground about integrity and wholeness in Christ. Put aside some time to thinking and praying about who would be a good person to invite on September 25<sup>th</sup>. Who do you feel has some openness to Christian ways, or who is in need of some stability, company, or guidance in their life? Invite someone to church, because then you'll be helping create a society with more integrity in it. Look forward to seeing you there!

Rev. Fran

### **Services at Cross Gates in September 10.30am & 6.00pm**

4 <sup>th</sup>	Rev Francesca Rhys	pm	No Service
11 <sup>th</sup>	Mrs Karen Pattison	pm	Circuit Service at Newbourne
18 <sup>th</sup>	Mr Keith Walker	pm	Rev John Mason
25 <sup>th</sup>	Rev Francesca Rhys	pm	Rev Francesca Rhys
	Harvest Festival		Songs of Praise

### **Communion Services in September**

Sunday	4 <sup>th</sup> September	10.30 am
Tuesday	6 <sup>th</sup> September	11 am (Tranquility Court)
Friday	9 <sup>th</sup> September	10 am
Sunday	18 <sup>th</sup> September	6.30 pm (Rev. John Mason)

### **Coffee Mornings in September 10.00—11.30 am**

Friday 2nd	Tranquility Court
Friday 9th	Church (No Stalls)
Friday 30th	<b>Macmillan Cancer Care</b> Gifts of cakes, bric-a-brac will be gratefully received
Every Monday	Age Concern
Every Saturday	Church Coffee Morning

### **Bearing Witness - Climate Change Conference organised through Christian Aid.**

Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> October, 12 noon – 7.30pm, at Manchester Methodist Central Hall and Manchester Cathedral with Professor Tinyiko Malukeke

### **Organ Donation**

A family member of a resident at Tranquility Court who is a nurse asked that people at church be encouraged to join the NHS Organ Donor Register. You can do this by filling in a form online at [www.uktransplant.org.uk](http://www.uktransplant.org.uk) or by calling the NHS Donor Line on 0300 123 23 23, or when applying for a Boots Advantage Card.

### **Christian Aid Week**

The final total collected by our church in the house to house collection was £1747.11, with an additional £208 from Gift Aid. A big thank you to all collectors and those who helped to raise this amount.

The grand total collected from this area by five local churches was £5741.02 with £517 from Gift Aid.

### **Table Top Sales**

The next sales will be held on 3rd September, 1st October and 5th November. If you would like more information or to book a table please see Lynda at church tables cost £5 each for church funds.

### **Wykebeck Conservation Volunteers** do outdoor voluntary work in

Wykebeck Valley, and are always looking for people to join them. Phone for more details: 0113 237 5312

### **Brownie Pack Holiday:**

At the end of July, 16 of our Brownies had a great Pack Holiday at Hazel House in Ripon. On Friday evening we walked into the town square to witness the daily tradition of "Horn blowing" and on Saturday we enjoyed the St. Wulfrid's Day Parade before going shopping. The theme of the week-end was "The Seasons" so the activities included a barbecue, barn dancing, Bonfire Night, Christmas morning and crafts related to Spring, Summer, Autumn and Winter. We attended All Hallowsgate Methodist Church on Sunday morning and the Brownies were invited to join in the summer children's activities. Throughout the weekend lots of fun was had by all.

### **Let's Go Bowling**

Time again for one of our Church Bowling Evenings. Please make a note in your diaries for **Friday 30<sup>th</sup> September**. 7.30pm at the Hollywood Bowl, Kirkstall Road. Anyone can do it if you can lift up a bowling ball and propel it somewhere in the direction of 10 inviting skittles (or pins as we refer to them in the trade). Whether or not you hit them or miss them, or fall over backwards with your feet in the air is a matter of supreme indifference to all concerned. We do have some very good bowlers who take it seriously and some bad ones who still do their best. It is a good fun night out and all are invited to a cup of coffee and a natter afterwards to round off the evening.

Costs are £4.75 per adult and £3.75 for those under 16. You can pay on the evening but it would help if you paid Harry or Jean Drake at church on a previous Sunday. Please put your names on the list in the Galilee. We look forward to seeing you there.

### **Pastoral Carers Meeting at Christ Church**

There will be a Pastoral Carers meeting on the 29th September at Christ Church. It starts at 7.30-pm and is an open meeting, everyone welcome to come along to hear the Revd Gaynot Hammond who is a Baptist Minister and will talk about People with Dementia and their carers.

The meeting is open to anyone in the Circuit who may be interested in this subject. Refreshments will be served in the Hall afterwards. Please make a note in your diaries as it should be an interesting evening.

Christine Townsend

### **Sponsored Ride and Stride, Saturday 10 September, 10am – 4pm**

Would you like to visit churches in our area that you haven't had a chance to see inside? Or would you like to visit churches in another part of Yorkshire? Many will be open on this Saturday as part of Yorkshire Historic Churches Trust *Ride and Stride*. Even better, why not raise money for Cross Gates Methodist Church as you do this? 50% of the money raised will come back to our church. You can travel between churches by bus, car, foot, or bicycle. Sponsor forms are in the Galilee, or on the website [www.YHCT.org.uk](http://www.YHCT.org.uk)

### **Wanted – Helpers in Church for Ride & Stride (Church Together event) 10th September 10am – 4pm**

Please can you spare an hour or half-an-hour to be in Church on 10<sup>th</sup> September. If you can, please sign on the list in the Galilee.

Thank you. Sylvia Wright.

### **Noah's Ark Fun Day in August**

Thank you very much to all the helpers who helped make this day so enjoyable for 27 children and some of their carers and parents. It included a Bible quiz about animals, the parachute game, the Noah's Ark story in the church, snacks in the lecture hall, singing, stroking the visting pair of lambs, animals in danger research, painting animal masks, snakes, and sheep, an animal puppet show in the pulpit, play dough (very popular!), and colouring. We now have a good "format" for these fun days. Somebody with good organisational skills would be welcome to lead the next one in the October half term.

### **Our Harvest Festival** takes place this year on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup>

September and following the success of last year it is hoped that as many people as possible will be involved.

Anyone who wishes to help with decorating the Church should turn up from 6.30pm on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> or Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> September. We also need volunteers to steward the Harvest Exhibition throughout the day on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> and on the afternoon of Sunday 25<sup>th</sup>. A rota for you to sign will be in the Galilee nearer the time. As usual the more people who can help with distribution of Harvest gifts after the evening service the better - please offer to take a couple of baskets to recipients who live near you. As well as baskets of produce and bouquets of flowers for the over 80s and those in need, it is hoped we can replenish the food box that we keep in the Galilee to give to those who come to Church in need of help, also to make a donation of foodstuffs to Meeting Point Cafe ie cuppa soups, pot noodles, biscuits, crackers, tins of beans, tomatoes, tuna, soups etc. Thank you.

### **Joint Circuit Event. (A Note for your Diary)**

This is to be on Saturday 15th October at Christ Church Halton to start at 10am. It will be a day when every church will be invited to bring along, or do on the day, a flower arrangement to be displayed around the church. We are heading it up 'What is blossoming in your church?' and would like each church to bring something to display with the flowers about something positive that is happening in their church. We will be having a faith lunch around 12.00 and then a time of worship at 1pm.

### **Leeds Methodist Choir**

Will present **GLORIA** at Leeds Town Hall on the 17th September 2011. Tickets are £12.00 at the Carriageworks Theatre Box Office Tel: 0113 2243801 or online at [www.leedstownhall.co.uk](http://www.leedstownhall.co.uk)

*Music will include: Te Deum, Mass of the Children (Featuring local school choirs), Organ Concerto (Dr Simon Lindley), Gloria with Sinfonia of Leeds*

### **Language Barrier...**

A couple was delighted when finally their long wait to adopt a baby came to an end. The adoption centre called and told them they had a wonderful Japanese baby boy, and the couple took him without hesitation.

On the way home from the adoption centre, they stopped by the local college so they each could enroll in night courses.

After they filled out the form, the registration clerk enquired, "What ever possessed you to study Japanese?"

The couple said proudly, "We just adopted a Japanese baby and in a year or so he'll start to talk. We just want to be able to understand him."