



CROSS GATES METHODIST CHURCH NEWSLETTER JULY/AUGUST 2011

Minster Reverend Francesca Rhys M.A.

Dear Friends,

Many of you have probably heard the phrase, “belonging comes before believing”. This recognises that identifying with a group of people who are trying to be followers of Christ can help people develop their faith in God. The faith doesn’t have to be all worked out before people start to feel they belong. During my training I remember talking to a deacon who was about to start work at a big Methodist Church of 300 or more members in Hampshire. Her job description was to build bridges between the groups that rented space at the church and the Sunday worshipping congregation. Her job description recognised that members of groups that rented space had already started to identify with the church building. There are stages and degrees of involvement, and our membership cards state that one part of our calling as Methodist Christians is to encourage more people to follow Jesus Christ. Our own church’s mission statement also highlights this task. Here we can’t afford to pay a deacon to do this work, and perhaps that’s just as well, because it continues to place the onus on each and every one of us.

The four Gospels vary as to how much they distinguish between the inner circle of the 12 disciples and the crowd who were attracted to Jesus and his teaching and healing. In the Gospel of Mark, there isn’t much distinction made between the apostles and the crowd, and the 12 disciples sometimes don’t seem to grasp Jesus’ teaching any better than members of “the crowd”: For example, when it comes to the feeding of the five thousand, the disciples are perplexed what to do about the great need.

It’s a child from the crowd who provides the starting point with his five loaves and two fish.

We all need to be active bridge-builders between the groups using our church premises and the worshipping congregation. We can smile or chat to people who attend School Room events. For those who don’t read or listen to the Bible, we are the Bible. Do our attitudes and behaviour make people want to find out more? Do we invite people to social events at the church? Do we invite people from fellowship groups and other circles to special, festival services? Do we invite friends with children to parade services or fun days? Think how much you like to be invited to something. You can’t beat a personal invitation! Seacroft Methodist Church was full of teenagers and the church’s “missing generation” in mid-June, as it hosted a festival of words and music by East Leeds FM. You can listen to it on the internet. Thanks to this partnership, what seeds of openness to faith in God may have been sown?

Keep up the good work! Revd Fran

Communion Services in July and August

Sunday	3 rd July	10.30 am (Revd Joyce Nicholson)
Tuesday	5 th July	11 am (Tranquility Court, Revd Sylvia Earle)
Friday	15 th July	10 am
Sunday	24 th July	6 pm (Memorial Service)
Tuesday	2 nd August	11 am (Tranquility Court)
Sunday	14 th August	10.30 am
Sunday	21 st August	6 pm (with prayers for healing and wholeness)

Services at Cross Gates - 10.30am & 6.00 pm

July 3 rd	Rev Joyce Nicholson	pm	No Service
" 10 th	Rev Francesca Rhys	pm	Circuit Service @ Gipton
" 17 th	Mrs Dorothy Chatterton	pm	No Service
" 24 th	Mr Tom Hobbs	pm	Rev Francesca Rhys
" 31 st	Rev Francesca Rhys	pm	Local Arrangement (Film)
Aug 7 th	Mrs Sue Mason	pm	No Service
" 14 th	Rev Francesca Rhys	pm	Circuit Service @ Newbourne
" 21 st	Rev Trevor Bates	pm	Rev Francesca Rhys
" 28 th	Mrs Mary Curl	pm	Mrs Sue Mason (Café Style)

Coffee Mornings in July and August 10.00—11.30 am

Friday 1st July	Tranquility Court
Friday 8th July	No Stalls
Friday 29th July	Gifts of cakes, bric-a-brac will be gratefully received
Friday 5th August	Tranquility Court
Friday 12th August	No Stalls
Friday 26th August	Gifts of cakes, bric-a-brac will be gratefully received
Every Monday	Age Concern
Every Saturday	Church Coffee Morning

Short Bible Study Course

There is an opportunity to join a short series of Bible studies at church between Tuesday 28 June and Tuesday 26 July. (Five Tuesday evenings, from 7.30 – 8.45pm) The series will be led by Keith Walker, a retired teacher of religious studies and a local preacher. It will include presentation about the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke, and related sections of the Old Testament, and discussion. Just show up when you can. In this anniversary year of the King James Bible, why not take up this opportunity to deepen your knowledge of the Bible?

Table Top Sales

The next sale will be held on 2nd July at 10.00-am If you would like a table, at a cost of £5 for Church funds, please contact Lynda Robinson at Church.

Stewardship Sunday – This Sunday which gives us all a chance to reassess the time, talents, and money that we offer to help the Church to flourish will take place on June 26th.

Coffee After Church

Please ask a few of your friends to sign up with you to serve coffee after church one morning. Enter your names on the rota on the notice-board outside the vestry.

Circuit Mission Market Stall—Thursday 7th July

Raising money for World and Home Mission. There is a box in the Galilee for donations of good quality bric-a-brac, nearly new clothes etc.

Leeds District Children's Holiday 2011

Each year the district sponsors a holiday for children from the Leeds area who, because of their circumstances, would not otherwise enjoy a time away from home. This year we will be taking a group of twenty two children to Ashville College, Harrogate from August 13th – 20th. When a mixture of activities and trips will take place on site and around the area.

Churches across the district generously support the scheme in many ways. You can help by providing:

A cake – home baking is a real treat for snacks and suppers

Suitable clothing for 7-11 years old, especially underwear, t-shirts, swimwear, jeans and shorts.

Toys, books and games for quieter moments.

A financial contribution. The cost of taking 22 children on the holiday is about £6500. This includes everything from accommodation and transport to ice creams and donkey rides! The cost of the holiday per child is about £300.

Please send monetary donations directly to the holiday treasurer Mrs G Wigham, 1 Benton Park Avenue, Leeds LS19 5LZ (Cheques should be made payable to Leeds Methodist District Holiday A/C)

For further information and to arrange collection of contributions please contact:

Susan Old, 7 Edgbaston Walk, Leeds LS17 7ND. or email: oldsusan@hotmail.com

Thank you for your support.

A Big Thank You

To Keith Sorrell and his Team at Airedale Computer Recycling who have kindly donated a Desk Top Computer to Crossgates Methodist Church so that we can use the screen and projector to greater effect, it is very much appreciated.

Saturday Coffee Morning

HELP, we are doing well with new customers BUT owing to ill health we need more HELPERS. Can you come and give two hours of your time once a month. If you can, please contact Graeme Bentley or Lesley Motley

Methodist Prayer Handbook 2010/11

Copies of this wonderful annual booklet will be available for sale in the Galilee of the church for £3, in small and large print versions. They provide heartfelt prayers from Methodists round the world, as well as a useful daily scheme of bible readings. What better new year's resolution could you have, especially this year marking the 400th anniversary of the King James version of the Bible!

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

We also need people to staff our church for an hour or two, who can welcome other sponsored pilgrims as they come to visit. Please sign up on the list on the notice-board.

Church Property—Summer Jobs

In previous years small cleaning and tidying work was carried out over a two week period in August. To try and spread the work out it is proposed that we use the whole of the summer and the list of jobs can then be tackled by volunteers either singly or in groups at their convenience.

1. Clean light covers in both buildings
2. Clean lino in Lecture Hall corridor
3. New white warning line on all church steps
4. Repair handrails on Church front entrance
5. Clean Lecture Hall paintwork, walls etc
6. Refurbish entrance way to Schoolroom
7. Eradicate moss around premises
8. Remove rubbish from garden down side of church.

Anyone electing to tackle one or other of the above jobs please contact David Leeming. Property Steward

Film Night on Sunday 31st July at 6 – 8.15pm (in the lecture hall)

We will watch the film *Brassed Off* (1996), unless everyone says they have seen it and remember it in detail! It lasts 107 minutes and we'll follow it with a cup of tea and some discussion. The film is set in a fictional South Yorkshire village in the 1980's, where the all-important coal mine is being considered for closure. The brass band plays a focal role in the community, and a young woman wants to join in this all-male preserve. She is also involved in the assessment of the colliery. The brass band plays on, throughout the turmoil and divisions in the community, as a site and symbol of communal life. It's a film that can provide reflective material about what the church is for and how it operates as a social organization. Looking forward to sharing in the film and some discussion together.

Pentecost Fun Day (1st June 2011)

Thank you, to all the helpers who gave up their time on and before the day. We had forty children, plus 15 apologies (because children were on holiday) and twenty adults who played games, made different types of crafts and listened to the word of God on what Pentecost means.

After a packed lunch we had black scratch cards which showed how the disciples felt after Jesus's death, and as we scratched them, colours emerged. We ended up with a bright pattern leading us to our thoughts at Pentecost. The children had gliders and butterflies which flew around the Schoolroom — and then into Church for a quiz and songs. The afternoon ended with prayer from Revd. Fran

I'm Just Worried Sick!

Two youngsters are talking to each other. One says, "I'm really worried. My dad works twelve hours a day to give me a nice home and good food. My mom spends the whole day cleaning and cooking for me. I'm worried sick!"

The other one says, "What have you got to worry about? Sounds to me like you've got it made!"

The first youngster says, "What if they try to escape?"