

CROSS GATES METHODIST CHURCH

NEWSLETTER

Minister: Reverend Francesca Rhys MA

No. 539 June 2008

Dear Friends,

May saw a good chunk of wonderful Spring weather, which meant that everything burst into the most beautiful greens and blossoms. I heard more than the usual number of comments about feeling "just glad to be alive!" Perhaps that sentiment helped people to respond so generously to the stewardship drive, when (at the time of writing) £3,100 was pledged to help meet our deficit. What a fantastic amount. Well done to the stewardship committee and to everyone who responded to that appeal and to the invitation to contribute our energies and prayer to the body of Christ in this corner.

At the other end of the scale, we've been confronted with the cyclone in Burma / Myanmar, and the earthquake in Sichuan province in China. I say "confronted with," yet we've been able to walk away from the awfulness of these disasters, hopefully responding in whatever way we're able, by prayer and by financial giving.

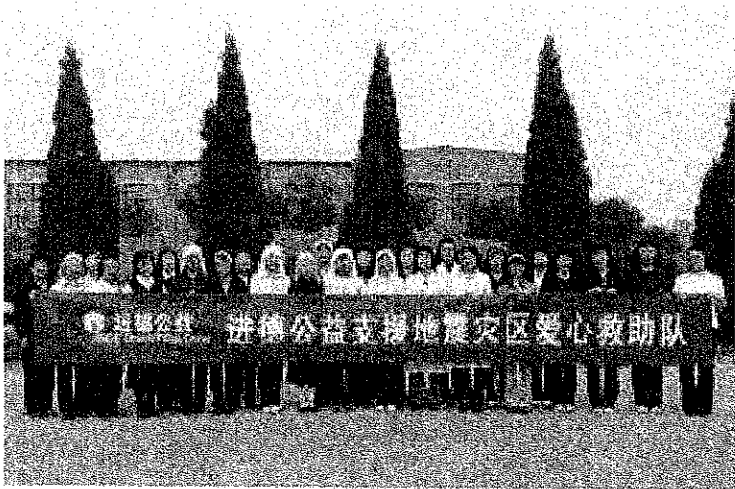
Meanwhile, we can only start to imagine the devastation of family members being killed in such cruel circumstances; of losing one's whole livelihood in one fell swoop. Those who have survived in the devastated areas will need all the help they can get to survive in the longer term.

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In the aftermath of the cyclone in Burma / Myanmar, Al Gore, former vice-president of the USA and maker of the film, *An Inconvenient Truth* explained how global warming is increasing ocean temperatures, which in turn causes storms to intensify. Referring to the number of extreme storms in recent years, he claimed: “we’re seeing consequences that scientists have long predicted might be associated with continued global warming.”

Whereas, like Job in the Old Testament, in the face of the earthquake we want to ask God: Why? In the face of the cyclone we need to ask ourselves: how can we help reduce the effects of global warming? What changes can we make in our lives to share resources or to encourage others to “reduce, reuse, recycle”?

To inspire you, I close with this picture of medically-trained Catholic sisters in China, preparing to leave to offer medical assistance in areas struck by the earthquake. They are sponsored by the Chinese Catholic *Jinde* non-governmental organisation. Fran



Holy Communion in June

Sunday 1st	10.30 am
Friday 6th	10.00 am Rev Trevor Bates
Sunday 22nd	6.00 pm
Friday 27th	10.00 am

Effective Christian Presence and Enterprise – Launch of Report-
Thursday 12 June 2008 at St George's Centre, Great George Street,
Leeds 9.30am-2.00pm

This report is the culmination of a three-year project, looking at what makes Christian engagement in communities effective and sustainable. The Churches Regional Commission for Yorkshire and Humber (CRC) and Faithworks have looked at this with the help of 20 innovative "Christian presences" from across the Yorkshire and Humber region. This report will, CRC believes, be of national interest, asking questions about leadership, resources, volunteers and training.

Keynote speakers:

- Fran Beckett, Chief Executive, Church Urban Fund
- Malcolm Duncan, Leader, Faithworks
- Liz Carnelley, Chief Executive, CRC

FREE event – but booking essential for catering

Bookings: Contact Faithworks at info@faithworks.info
telephone 0207 921 4284.

Items for the Newsletter

Each month the Newsletter contains news of forthcoming events but very little about the results of events that have been held by all the different groups within the church family. Perhaps you could tell us about them. We've noticed that other churches often do this. So let's be hearing from you!

Cynthia and Trevor

Leeds District Children's Holiday

This wonderful venture which has been going many years for 22 children who wouldn't otherwise get a summer holiday is in need of our support. They are looking for one more adult willing to accompany the group at Harrogate from 9-16 August. They are also looking for financial contributions (the cost is £300 per child); children's clothes and games; and home-baked goods.

Contact Revd Dr Steve Day 271 6818 or Susan Old 295 0895.

Crossgates Carnival

Sat 28th June

*"A practical expression of God's love &
a demonstration of church unity"*

Crossgates Carnival aims to draw people together and serve the community. This whole event is provided free of charge by the 5 churches in Crossgates.

Over the last 5 years this event has become an established community event in the local calendar and is supported by Leeds City Council. Many people with no connection with the churches see not only a demonstration of church unity, but also a practical expression of God's love and grace.

Last year, despite the rain around 1000 people enjoyed a free BBQ, face painting, bouncy castles, craft activities, five aside football, games, displays from local uniformed groups and much, much more! Stories and photos can be found on www.crossgatestoday.co.uk

Prayer Requests

- To find displays and activities -clown, juggler, magician, puppets, musicians, local groups etc
- Volunteers – over 70 helped out last year on the day – more are needed!
- Pray that Crossgates Carnival will make a positive impact in the community.

A volunteer's story

"I've really enjoyed helping out each year on the day. I think that it's great to be able to work with Christians from all the churches. Carnival has grown considerably since it first began in 2004 - it's the only event of its kind locally and people now know that the churches are at the heart of it. People are really amazed that it's all free – just like God's love to us. Seeing so many happy families on the day makes all the hard work worthwhile. "

Over the last few years before the event we have planted bulbs, painted the play equipment and done litter picking – all to show our care for the community. It's a great opportunity to get out amongst people and be a visible presence as churches together. It's a chance to get to know one another better and have some fun too.

We always need help planning the event, setting up or supervising an activity on the day – do speak to John Blyth 260 8908 or Richard Holdstock 273 6279 to discover how you can help!

Dates for the diary

Sat 7th June – 10am-3pm Work in the Park with picnic lunch and games at 12.30pm

Wed 25th June – 6-7 pm Prayer Walk with children's games

Sat 28th June – 11am-3pm Carnival

For more information Contact

Karen Gray - Event Coordinator

0113 264 5200 karen@jandkgray.freeseve.co.uk

Wednesday at Eight

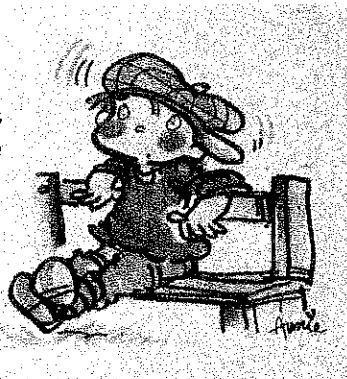
We would be very grateful if anyone would be willing to help us occasionally at our Saturday morning Coffee Morning from 9.30 – 11.30 am. The money raised from these coffee mornings goes to Christian Aid and other charities. During the last year we have sent £300 to Christian Aid and divided a further £200 between other charities. If you are able to help us please contact Lesley Motley.

China fundraising evening for Jessica Dick

You are invited to a Chinese Meal and Evening on 19th July at 6-00pm, to help Jessica Dick raise funds to take part in a *World Challenge* programme in China, in the summer of 2009. *World Challenge* delivers ethical educational programmes for schools, to help students develop teamwork, leadership, problem-solving and communication skills. A £3.50 ticket (available soon) will get you a delicious, mild Chinese meal, with dessert; a chance to hear from Jessica what she'll be learning and doing; and after the meal we'll "De-Code the Beijing Olympics" with Diane Allen. There's more behind the Olympic logo, torch design, mascots, and opening date than you think! Come and join in a festive evening, as we support Jessica, in this learning adventure. We may even be treated to hear how Jenny Holdstock is getting on with studying Chinese (and French) at Nottingham University. Date: Saturday, July 19, 6-pm. Tickets available soon

GHURGH SIGN

*You are not too
BAD to come in,
and not too GOOD
to stay OUT!!!*



Coffee Mornings in June 10-am—11.30 am

Friday 13th (no stalls)

Friday 27th (gifts of cakes, bric-a-brac will be gratefully received)

Every Monday Age Concern

Every Saturday Wednesday at Eight

NSPCC Bring & Buy Coffee Morning

Please come along and support this event at the home of Anne and

Don Oates, 5 Baronsmead on Wednesday 25th June from

10-am—12 noon. Admission £1.00

Let us hope for a fine day so we can sit in the garden!

Toddler's Praise

Thursday afternoon at 2.00 p.m. on June 5th and June 19th

We are pleased to acknowledge your giving for the 4 weeks ended

11th May 2008: Offertory £3152.84, Donations: Ladies Friendship

Group £60.00, Wednesday at Eight: £50.00, Lusaka Orphanage:

£175.18, Sunday Coffee: £100.00, Open Church: £15.60, Coffee

Morning: £22.00, Grace Jars: £39.00, Tran Court Communion: £4.00.

Jumble Sale

The Church Coffee Morning Group are holding a Jumble Sale on

Saturday 14th June at 10.00 a.m. Jumble can be brought in from 8.45

a.m. on the day.

District World Church Open Meeting

You are invited to attend the Annual World Church Open meeting of

the Leeds District. This will take place on Tuesday, 10th June 2008,

at Burley Methodist Church, Cardigan Road, Leeds LS4 2LE. The

speaker is Rev. Keith Hunt and the subject is "India Revisited". The

meeting commences at 7.45 p.m., with light refreshments served

from 7.00 p.m. If anyone would like a lift please contact Christine or

Richard Holdstock.

Circuit Missions Market Stall

On Thursday, 10th July 2008 a Charity Market Stall will be held at Leeds Market to raise money for World and Home Missions. Each Church in the Circuit has been asked to donate items to sell. Good quality bric-a-brac, toys, nearly-new clothes and anything else which might sell are needed. A box for donated items will be in the Galilee on Sunday mornings in June.

Helpers will also be needed on the day, if any one is able to spare a couple of hours at the Market stall please let Christine Holdstock know.

Tranquility Court Support Group Plant Sale

A big 'thank you' to all those people who sent their carefully grown plants, to those who made cakes and the helpers on the day. The total raised was £210. and the Group are very grateful for all the support they received.

Baptisms

April 27th Dylan Dean Ellis To proud mum, Carley Jukes of Seacroft
April 27th Luca Zach Hindley To proud parents, Jamie and Danielle
Hindley of Kippax

Funerals in May

20th at Lawnswood Crematorium Lucy Brown

Please remember in your prayers:

In hospital, recently out of hospital, unwell at home:

Andrew Groves, Dorothy & Bob Newell, Kathleen Rinder, Kathleen Winders, Brian Dean, Janet Evans, Enid Stafford, Michael Beaty, Betty Christian, Joyce & Ivor Powell, Mrs. Knowles, Dennis Twigg, Blanche & Stanley Dale, Ken Taylor, Anne Ineson, Freda Whalley, Jack Illingworth, Margaret Payne, Pauline Roberts, Alan Race, Mr. & Mrs. Fellows, Mrs. Woolterton, Jean Brown, Anne Martin, George Johnson, Ann Fountain, (TC) , John Gledhill, Margaret Myland, David Weston, Margaret Barnett