

CONTACT

CHRIST CHURCH HALTON
COLTON METHODIST CHURCH

April 2025

"Christ himself carried our
sins in his body to the cross,
so that we might die to sin
and live for righteousness."

1 Peter 2:24

Edward's Letter

Dearly beloved in the Lord,

As Easter approaches, our thoughts turn once again to the events that led up to the closing chapters of our Lord's life, and the season of Lent that precedes it.

I read a story somewhere about a three-year-old girl, Nicole. Nicole was as anxious for Easter to come as she had been anxious for Christmas to come. One day as Nicole and her father stopped at a shoe shop to buy her a new pair of shoes, she once again said, 'I can't wait for Easter Daddy'

Her father asked, 'Do you know what Easter means, my daughter?' Nicole replied, 'Yes.' 'Well, what does Easter mean?'

In her three-year old way, with arms raised, a smile on her face, she said, 'Surprise!'

The one consistent element in the Gospel accounts of that Easter morning is that everyone was surprised. No one expected an empty tomb, much less the presence of the risen Christ.

More than 2000 years later, we're still celebrating the good news of the empty tomb and passing it on to those who haven't yet heard or don't yet believe.

Because of the empty tomb our hearts can be filled with joy.

Because of the empty tomb, our homes can be filled with faith, hope and love.

Because of the empty tomb, we know that the promise of eternal life is true.

We thank God for the glorious surprise of Easter and for the love we see in Jesus Christ.

May Easter bring us comfort as we gratefully recall that Jesus loved each one of us and died to save us all. Hallelujah!

Yours in His service,

Edward Sakwe



Worship changes at Colton during April

Palm Sunday 13th April: On Sunday 13th April we will be meeting at 12 noon rather than the usual 10.30am. We are planning a different style of worship as suggested by the Susanna's Table Project that Rev Becki has been involved in. We hope it's something all ages will engage with. We'll gather for a short time of worship together, share a simple lunch, which will be provided, then you can either join a Prayer Walk (this will be outside unless there is torrential rain, so please bring a coat!) or remain in church for further worship and reflection on the lines of the "Wednesday JAM" style session. We'll then join together again for a final hymn and prayer. Both options will include the distribution of Palm Crosses.

Maundy Thursday 17th April: A service for Maundy Thursday including Holy Communion will be held at Colton at 7.30pm, led by Revd Tim Nicholls.

Good Friday 18th April: We will meet at Colton at 10am to join the Churches Together in East Leeds Walk of Witness, to Cross Gates Methodist Church, for the reading of the Passion at 11am.

Easter Day Sunday 20th April: All Age worship will be at 9.30am at Colton, led by Revd Becki Stennett including Holy Communion, as we celebrate Easter Day.

Sunday 27th April: We will meet for worship at Colton at 10.30am as normal, along with Junior Church. But rather than having a preacher, we will be joining worship that is taking place at Cross Gates Methodist via Zoom, so please bear with us and our technology! We are testing this for future services where we may need to share preachers. You are warmly invited to worship at Cross Gates in person if you prefer.

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK AT CHRIST CHURCH

Christian Aid Week runs from 11th – 17th May, and on Sunday 12th there will be an envelope collection at Christ Church. On Saturday 24th May our Coffee Morning will support Christian Aid too. A worldwide charity supported by many denominations and giving aid and support around the globe.

Miracles

Many in this keenly literal world of scientifically explained cause and effect dismiss miracles as human delusions or more open mindedly as fantastical anomalies. Yet how does one explain the fact that prior to the devastating arrival of the awesome tsunami which claimed so many human lives, the animals fled to higher ground. No dog was killed by that tidal wave of destruction. Our science cannot explain how and why animals realized well before humans that a great threat to survival was approaching and that higher ground needed to be found immediately. Was this a "miracle", an observable event yet inexplicable? Might it not be possible, or even likely, that forces or influences not susceptible to rational thought can and do intrude in our physical world in ways essentially inscrutable, upending physical laws. We try and believe in miracles but are hide-bound by the pride of our intelligence.

(From "Musings Of A Wayward Pilgrim" by Mark Zenick and reproduced with the author's kind permission.)

Christ Church Halton Guild

present a concert by

The Wendell Singers

Followed by afternoon tea

on Saturday, 26th April

at 3.00pm

Tickets - £10

Available from Sheila (2602553) or

Barbara (2934995)

Proceeds in aid of church funds.

John Bacon

We are sorry to announce the death of John Bacon, a member of our church for many years. Our thoughts and prayers are with his wife Dorothy and all their family. John died peacefully following a long period of ill health. A thanksgiving service for John's life is being arranged.



Christ Church Halton Guild

SPRING PLANT SALE



Thursday 8th May – 9am – 4.30pm
Friday 9th May - 9am – 4.30pm
Saturday 10th May - 9am – 12.30pm
Plus 2nd hand book stall.



REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE

Proceeds for church funds

Lent Giving at Colton

As well as considering a Carbon Fast as a different way for us to mark Lent, a reminder that this year during Lent we are suggesting we raise money for the Toilet Twinning project – so you might like to save a penny when you spend a penny! Labels are available from Colton Church (on the Eco Church board), to fix to an empty jar in which to save your money. Please pass on any donations to Colton Church by 27th April.

If we raise £60, we can twin our church toilet and fund a project in a community that helps families to build their own basic toilet, access clean water and learn about hygiene – a vital combination that saves lives. You can find out more information about the work of the organisation at <https://toilettwinning.org/>.

Easter Offering envelopes will be available at Colton on Palm Sunday and Easter Day, for donations to the Methodist Missions Fund.

Q: What do you call a dancing Easter chick?

A: Poultry in motion!

Easter Jokes!



Q: Why do people paint eggs at Easter?

A: Have you ever tried to wallpaper one?!

Q: What do you get when you cross a rabbit with shellfish?

A: The oyster bunny!

Christ Church Guild Update

Spring has arrived at last and we can look forward to longer hours of daylight and shorter nights. There is new growth in the garden and the crocuses are in full bloom at Temple Newsham!

We have been able to make use of the new projector and are grateful to David Roberts for supplying a stand which has made it easier to set it up. For the last Guild meeting in February we enjoyed a fish and chip supper followed by a challenging and enjoyable quiz put on by Paul Kaufman.

At the beginning of March Rev Andy Muckle gave a description of the brilliant work of St George's Crypt in providing help and shelter for the homeless and the needy in Leeds. Veronica Bird gave an impressive presentation of her work in prisons and also her role in a charity linked to the Royal Family. Unfortunately, due to health problems, Roger Browne was unable to entertain us with the American Songbook, but we were fortunate that Rev. Joyce Nicholson stepped in at the last minute and inspired us with descriptions of 'Thin' (Holy) places she has experienced. These included places in the North East, at Durham Cathedral and Lindisfarne, then at Taize, Lourdes and Compostela and also in the Holy Land.

To complete the programme up to Easter:

8th April – A.G.M.

We welcome any ideas for topics for future meetings.

15th April – The Journey through Holy Week

Rev. Diane and Rev. Ron Hicks will lead our Holy Week service.

A reminder that the Guild is open to all and you are invited to join us for any evening which appeals to you. – *Peter Maskrey*

Christ Church Stewards

Christ Church is in need of Church Stewards. Please can you give this some thought and prayer as we would welcome any Church member who feels called to do this much needed role. Please speak to me for further information if you are interested. -

Helen Lappage

Colton Plant Sale

Saturday 10th May 10am - 12 Noon

If anyone is able to help at the Plant Sale either on the day and/or on the Friday afternoon for set up, it would be much appreciated. Please also save any newspapers or bags you may have and bring them to church nearer the time. If you can help in any way please advise Alison, David or Jenny at Colton. (Please see the full-page advert elsewhere in this month's Contact for more details.)

WEDNESDAY JESUS AND ME @ COLTON

Sadly due to holidays and the Church being closed (see separate item), there will be no Wednesday JAM Sessions in April. They will recommence as usual the second Wednesday in May. All welcome.

Say Hello, Wave Goodbye

There will be a Farewell Service for Revd George Bailey, Revd Edward Sakwe, Revd Becki Stennett, & Revd Mark Stennett on Sunday 27th July at 4pm at Lidgett Park Methodist Church. Also at Lidgett Park on 31st August, there will be a Welcome Service for Revd Janet Titterton, Revd Nigel Wright & Revd Emily Young at 2.30pm.

Both services will be streamed on Zoom in case churches or individuals would like to join remotely. Details of the Zoom links will be circulated nearer the time.





17th Colton Scouts

Pop-up Restaurant

Come and join us for some delicious food cooked and served by our talented Scouts. Choose your date:

Wednesday 14th May or Wednesday 21st May

AT 19:30

Starter:

Summer Canapés

Smoked Salmon Pate, Watermelon and Feta Salad and a Tomato Bruschetta

Main:

Bolognaise Pasta Bake

Mince in a rich tomato sauce, smothering penne pasta and baked with a delicious cheese topping, served with garlic bread.

Vegetarian: Fresh vegetable pasta bake.

Dessert:

Eaton Mess

Lightly whipped cream laced with crushed meringue and fresh berries, topped with a smooth berry compote.

Although we are not a professional kitchen, we will try our best to cater for all dietary requirements. Please ensure that you inform us of any when you book.

This is a pay as you feel charity event to raise money for the 17th Colton Scout Group. All money received will be gratefully appreciated.

You must book your place by emailing Garfield:

janet.gray@leedstemplars.org.uk

Family JAM at Colton (Jesus And Me!)

Family JAM runs on the 4th Sunday of each month, 4pm to 6pm. Our next session is on Sunday 25th May (No session in April).

What is it? An informal time of gathering, hearing a Bible story, responding using craft, creativity & conversation, a short time of prayer & song, then eating a meal together.

Who is it for? Everyone! This is especially suitable for families with children aged 4-12, but everyone is most welcome, whether you have children in your family or not.

What does it cost? It's totally free!

To find out more and to book a space please email info.coltonchurch@gmx.co.uk, message our Facebook page "Colton Methodist Church, Leeds" or pop a note through the church letterbox.

"All I want is to know Christ and to experience the power of his resurrection, to share in his sufferings and become like him in his death" – *Philippians 3:10*

Cross Gates Joint Service

"I know not everyone is happy with these and there are difficulties for some including getting there/parking etc, but the service on Mothering Sunday was brilliant. It was very well attended by all ages and from the five churches. Revd Becki Stennett was welcomed back after her Sabbatical, the Rainbows where there filling the front row, and we all enjoyed singing joyful hymns and songs many with actions. Revd Becki led us in worship and looked at Mothers in the Bible and reminded us that as God mothers us we should look after others not just family or Church family but also our community.

The service was followed by coffee and cake and fellowship. And yes, I was blessed I could walk home with a friend." – *Alison*.

Messy Church @ Christ Church

Messy Church celebrates Easter on Saturday April 12th, between 2 and 4pm as usual. Rev Nicola leads our worship and there will be tons of Easter-themed crafts and activities. All ages are welcome to join us for an afternoon packed with fun! Pay-as-you-feel-able, with a suggested donation of £1 per child, and all children must be accompanied by an adult throughout.



Colton Eco-Church Update Earth Day 2025: Tuesday 22nd April

Earth Day is marked on the 22nd April each year. It aims to highlight the importance of protecting the environment and became a global event in 1990 – though the first Earth Day took place in 1970 in the US in response to a spill from an oil tanker. This year it's expected that over one billion people of all ages in almost 200 countries will take part in activities to mark Earth Day, according to the organisers.

For our young people, or any teachers amongst us, the BBC is hosting a 'Live Lesson' on Earth Day, providing activity sheets, videos and an assembly plan for primary age children – search the BBC website for Teach, Earth Day. The 'Live Lesson' will start at 11am on CBBC.

The theme of the global Earth Day this year is 'Our Power, Our Planet' and it's encouraging us to consider how we can all take action to unite behind renewable energy. If you'd like to find out more, search for Earth Day 2025 UK in your browser and you'll find a wealth of information and resources there.

And a heads up in case you want to do a bit of advance preparation if you have a garden – May's Eco Church article will be all about Plantlife's 'No Mow May' campaign!

Colton Church Closure

Due to the installation of the new rear door and window, Colton Church and car park will be closed to all users from Tuesday April 22nd to Friday 25th. This is for health and safety reasons during construction and any extra cleaning required following.



**West
Highland
Way®**

Raising Money for Little Hearts

“This April, Jo and I are once more pulling on our hiking boots and tackling the 96-mile West Highland Way over seven days. We start at Milngavie, just outside Glasgow, and make our way via Loch Lomond, Rannoch Moor, and the foothills of Ben Nevis all the way to Fort William, walking up to 20 miles each day.

With each step, we're raising money for Tiny Tickers, a wonderful charity who help babies with serious heart conditions – giving them a better start in life and the best possible chance for their future. They work to improve detection rates for cardiac defects in babies, to help families cope, to place life-saving equipment in maternity units, and to represent patients on NHS committees and projects.

If you'd like to make a donation in support of this great cause, please see www.justgiving.com/page/whw25



Date for your diary



**CHRIST CHURCH SUMMER FAIR
SATURDAY 7TH JUNE, 10AM TO 1PM**



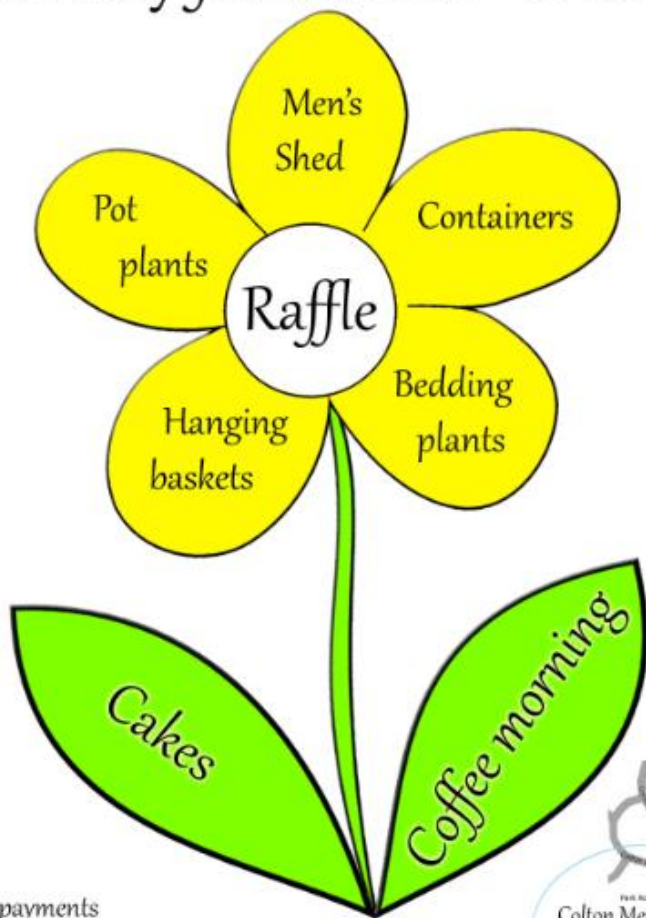
Come along and enjoy browsing the stalls and have a chat over a cup of tea, coffee or juice, and some lunch. Stalls include plants, cakes, tombola, bric a brac, jigsaws and lots of others.

Colton Church Annual General Meeting Summary

Our meeting took place on Sunday 16th March after worship, chaired by Revd Mark. Thanks were expressed to Mark for making time to lead our meeting during Revd Becki's sabbatical. Minutes of the meeting are available on the Church Information board or see Kathryn if you would like your own copy. Here are the main points from the meeting:

- **Church Stewards:** Elaine, Kathryn and Sijmen agreed to continue as church stewards, with Frank stepping down this year. Grateful thanks to Frank for all his work as a steward. The senior stewards (Kathryn and Elaine) advised the meeting that a review of the role of steward is being carried out with the view to creating the role of Sunday Steward. This role would concentrate on the arrangements for Sunday worship, without additional governance duties. Jenny and Dorothy expressed an interest in taking on this role once the review has been completed.
- **Representatives to Church Council:** thanks were expressed to Jane for her time served in this role as she is now stepping down. Maureen offered to serve as a representative from the AGM and the meeting welcomed this offer!
- **Church Reports:** A document containing various reports from the life of the church had been circulated prior to the meeting. Thanks were expressed to all those submitting the reports and those involved in all the various roles to support the work of the church in Colton.
- **Planning worship:** the meeting was updated on the work being carried out in planning for worship and different arrangements being tried out (see the separate item about worship at Colton during April).
- **Sharing volunteer roles across the church:** useful discussion took place about what we could explore to help share the workload across more people.
- **Church Charity of the Year:** after discussion about our finances, it was agreed that we put on hold nominating a specific charity for the 2025/26 year with a decision delegated to church council about any charitable giving at the end of the year.
- **Circuit News:** it was confirmed that there had been success in appointing 3 presbyters to the Circuit from September 2025, as hoped.

Plant Sale @ Colton Methodist Church 10th May from 10am - 12 noon



Cash only payments
Proceeds for the Church Repair and Renew fund


Colton Methodist Church
@ the heart of the Colton Community

Forthcoming Services at Christ Church

6 April	Mrs Anne Vautrey
13 April	Mrs Hazel Featherstone
Good Friday	Rev Edward Sakwe (7.30pm)
Easter Day	Rev Nicola Robinson Holy Communion
27 April	Christ Church Worship Team
4 May	Rev Rosalind Shelby Holy Communion

Christ Church Easter Breakfast

We are providing an Easter Breakfast at 9 am on Easter Sunday morning at Christ Church Halton. We would like as many people as possible to share in this time of fellowship. Please invite friends and family and add your names and any dietary requirements to the list in the entrance at Christ Church or phone Helen Lappage on 0113 260 7314.

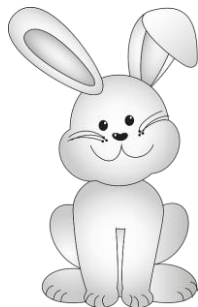
Next Month's "Contact"

The next edition of Contact will be published on 4 May. Due to holiday, please let Andy have any articles or contributions for next month's issue by the **earlier-than-usual deadline of 7pm on Thursday 24 April**. Many thanks. (andybirkett76@gmail.com or 07952 861316).

Don't forget you can now find a digital edition of Contact online at the Colton and Christ Church pages of the Circuit website.

Forthcoming Services at Colton

6 April	Rev Becki Stennett All-Age Worship
13 April	Rev Tom Ferguson Prayer Walk and Lunch (12.00pm)
Maundy Thursday	Rev Tim Nicholls (7.30pm) Holy Communion
Good Friday	Walk of Witness (10.00am)
Easter Day	Rev Becki Stennett (9.30am)
27 April	Rev Steven Jones (from Cross Gates Methodist Church via Zoom at Colton, or attend in person at Cross Gates)
4 May	Mrs Janice Green All-age Worship



Thoughts for April

Life is the gift you have been given – a world of wonders. Enough to delight a thousand lives. And it is yours.

A smile is an investment, an inner happy glow.
A mood lifter, a cheer-giver.

If April showers should come your way, they
bring the flowers that bloom in May.



(See John 20:1-18)

03-29-2002

I WANT YOU TO FOLD UP MY BURIAL
CLOTHES, WAIT FOR MARY, AND REMEMBER
THAT THIS IS SERIOUS ... NO HIDING
AND YELLING "BOO"

Senior Steward

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