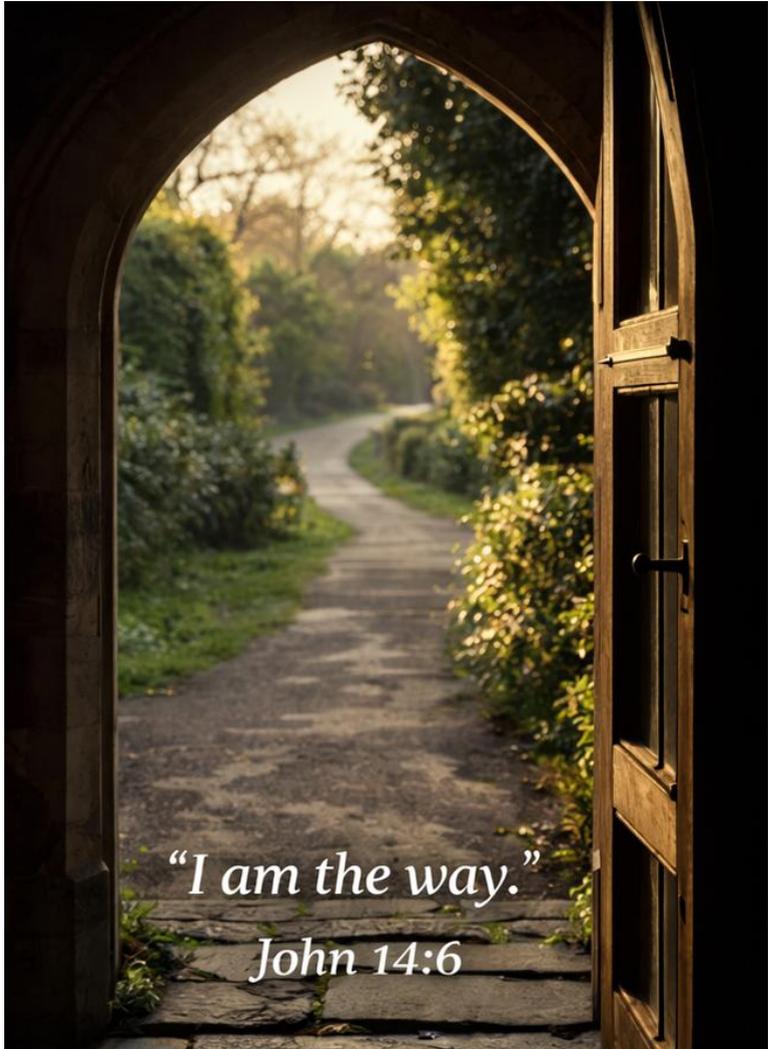


CONTACT

CHRIST CHURCH HALTON
COLTON METHODIST CHURCH



"I am the way."

John 14:6

Janet's Letter

It's February already! No sooner have we got Christmas out of the way than we're looking at Lent. After all that extra eating and drinking, we turn to fasting and reflection.

Some years ago my daughter-in-law, Eleanor, had a job as a student worker in the chaplaincy at Leeds University. One Lent time, she set the students a challenge: "This Lent, will you be a 'GUS' or a 'TOM'?" The challenge set was either to be GUS and Give Up Something or TOM and Take On More.

To give up chocolate, biscuits, or chocolate biscuits, coffee, meat, or whatever it is that we enjoy but is not good for us. This is a Lenten tradition, to Give Up Something. Or we might prefer to Take On More. To get into a new habit, reading the Bible daily, praying regularly, journaling, walking, swimming, or whatever it is that will be of spiritual or physical benefit to us.

Of course, we can do both, we can be both a 'GUS' and a 'TOM'. Both are good ways to observe this special time of year. Both are good ways to keep our own Lenten fast. Either or both will benefit us in many ways.

But what does God want from us? What kind of fasting does He prefer? Through the prophet Isaiah He said this: "This is the kind of fasting I want: free those who are wrongly imprisoned; lighten the burden of those who work for you... ...Share your food with the hungry, and give shelter to the homeless. Give clothes to those who need them, and do not hide from relatives who need your help." (Isaiah 58: 6,7 NLT)

No mention there of giving up biscuits or of reading the Bible. Do those things, but as you do them don't forget that what God really wants us is not for us to be a 'GUS' or a 'TOM'. God wants us to be a 'LEO'. What God really wants from us this Lent, and Easter, and always, is that we should Love Each Other, and go out of our way to do something that shows it. So let's all try to be LEO's this Lent.

I wish you all God's blessings as we approach Lent 2026.

With love,

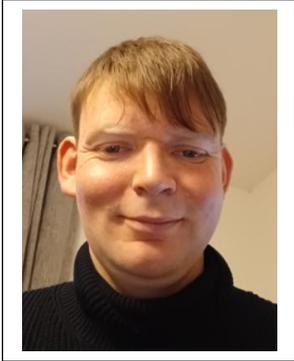
Rev Janet



CIRCUIT SERVICE
SUNDAY 1st FEBRUARY 4pm
AT OAKWOOD CHURCH
Come and worship together.

The Presentation of Jesus at the Temple is celebrated in various Christian traditions, often referred to as Candlemas, symbolizing the light of Christ coming into the world. The Presentation serves as a reminder of Jesus' mission and the hope of salvation for all humanity.

Let's explore it together.



New Minister for the Leeds URC Partnership

One weekend last month, Edward Lyne, a ministerial student, visited the Leeds URC Partnership, meeting over 100 people informally on Saturday and leading worship at Beeston Hill United Free Church on Sunday morning and at Headingley St Columba URC in the afternoon. The afternoon service was followed by a Partnership meeting at which it was decided to call Edward to serve the Leeds URC Partnership. We are delighted that Ed has accepted the call. He will be ordained and inducted into the Partnership Ministry Team later this year (August /September) once he has completed his studies.

*“How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in?
And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not
heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to
them?” (Romans 10:14)*

New Year Party @ Colton

The New Year Party at Colton took place on Saturday 17th January. Fun was had by all ages, pass the parcel, sing-a-longs, games a wonderful array of food to share and everyone had a chance to win Patrick the Penguin by guessing his name!

Thank you to all who helped setting up ready for the event and clearing away at the end. It was completed in record time thanks to a willing band of helpers and a 'posse' of folk in the kitchen.

A sum of £71.80 was raised for church funds from the raffle.

CIRCUIT MISSIONS QUIZ



“I have compiled a Quiz to sell in aid Methodist Missions - at home and abroad. These are now on sale throughout the Circuit - I am selling them at Christ Church and David Preston is selling them at Colton. They are priced at £1.00 each and I hope that you will support this worthwhile cause. There are 55 questions and the winner will receive £20.00. In the event of a tie this will be shared. You have plenty of time to "have a go" as entries have to be with me by 28th March, and this gives you plenty of "thinking time".

Thank you for your support with this.

*Jean Hopkinson,
Circuit Missions Treasurer*

Lent Giving at Colton – supporting **SolarAid**

This year during Lent we'd like to suggest you think of a small treat that you buy often, such as a tempting snack, a magazine or a takeaway coffee, and collect the money you've saved by giving it up. If you then bring your saved money to Colton Church it will give us the opportunity to raise funds for an organisation called Solar Aid.

SolarAid exists because right now, 590 million people across sub-Saharan Africa lack access to clean, safe, affordable light – endangering people and the planet. But there is a simple solution – solar lights.

Solar lights extend the working day and remove the need to use dirty and dangerous fuels like kerosene meaning parents can earn, children can learn and the planet can breathe a bit easier. Through their social enterprise model, they support people to create thriving solar businesses that tackle poverty and climate change. See more information at solar-aid.org

We also invite you to support them through prayer, giving thanks for the work they do and praying for all involved in their operation. Look out for further details in the weekly notices.



Thank You, From Colton Church Stewards!

Thank
You

- ♥ To all those who contributed to the amazing number of donations for Meeting Point and the Foodbank as part of the Reverse Advent Calendar, and special thanks to Ali for promoting this again and Keith, Sylvia & Elaine for delivering the items.
- ♥ For all the toys and gifts donated at our annual Toy Service, which were greatly appreciated by the Salvation Army, who organised the distribution to those in need.
- ♥ To everyone who helped in any way with worship over Advent and Christmas, including Junior Church for leading our Toy Service and the Candle Liturgy, other readers, guitarists & organ player and all the preachers who led wonderful times of worship together.
- ♥ To everyone who helped decorate the church for Christmas and those who tidied it away after Christmas, helping to get rid of those extra calories by wrestling with the Christmas tree box and climbing up to the loft!
- ♥ For monetary donations totalling £248.59 for Save the Children, from the Carol Service and the Church Christmas card (thanks to Amanda for producing the wonderful card!) and £187.56 for Action for Children from Christmas Day worship.
- ♥ To the Methodist Church Connexion for the “Gifted” resources used in worship, in publicity and as give aways (and thanks to those who made the lovely gift tags).

Another great team effort to make this such a special season, so thank you everyone for all your support!



Daily Devotions from the URC

You may like to try the free to access, daily devotions from the URC. They are sent as an email each morning and include a reading, reflection and short prayer. The reflections are written by a team of around 120 writers from within the United Reformed Church and ecumenical partners, and often offer different opinions and perspectives.

You can subscribe via <http://devotions.urc.org.uk/> and can unsubscribe at any point by clicking on the link at the bottom of each email.



Happy Birthday and Congratulations to **Sue Guy** who will be celebrating her 80th Birthday on 15th February. Sending lots of love and thanks for all you do, from everyone at Christ Church.

Leprosy Mission

On Sundays 8th & 15th February there will be a special collection at Colton Church in aid of the Leprosy Mission. This is a charity we continue to support, in memory of the late Freda Pagan who brought this important work to our attention. Envelopes will be available for your donations. Thank you in anticipation of your support.

Alison would like to say thank you to all at Christ Church who contributed to the Christian Aid appeal over the Christmas period. £210 was raised from Christmas Greetings and the collection.

MESSY CHURCH @ CHRIST CHURCH

Messy Church is back on Saturday 14 February for an afternoon packed with the usual fun and games. We'll be thinking about love, and the story of the Good Samaritan. All ages are welcome to take part in our crafts, games, worship, singing, dancing and refreshments. We begin at 2pm and go all the way through to 4pm, and all children must be accompanied by an adult. We operate on a "pay as you feel able" basis, with a suggested donation of £1 per child. If you're planning to come, please let us know via Facebook, or by contacting Helen (details on the back page of Contact) – having an idea of numbers helps with our catering. Thanks!

Carry on Sparkling by Pauline Hardman

Never lose the sparkle
don't pack it all away,
like the Christmas lights and baubles,
that now have had their day.
Keep the joy of Christmastide
deep within your heart,
let it shine out bright
we all can do our part.
The beam from a smile
or a kindly deed
can lift or brighten a day,
make the going easier
illuminate the way.
Imagine you're wearing your Christmas jumper,
and feel the joy and fun,
let the sparkle wrap around you
for a new year has begun.

Family JAM (Jesus and Me) At Colton Methodist Church

Our next Family JAM session will be held on Sunday 22 February from 4pm to 6pm, led again by Revd Janet.

If you'd like to know more, or to let us know you are coming to the February Family JAM, please speak to Amanda or Kathryn at Colton Church, email: info.coltonchurch@gmx.co.uk or message our Facebook page "Colton Methodist Church, Leeds"

New Year, New Role at Colton Church?

It's that time of year when some of us might have made a new year resolution but may or may not be finding it easy to keep! But do we consider making a God centred resolution? Have you thought how you may serve God and particularly how you may contribute to the life of the church in Colton?

Maybe you'd like to join the rota for volunteer roles such as Sunday coffee, welcome stewards, cash counters and Bible readers during worship. Or consider the role of Sunday Steward or Church Steward.

Please don't think that because people are already in these roles there's no room for you! Some of our volunteers have been in the role for a considerable amount of time so need a rest, or they may wish to have chance to consider other roles themselves.

We are also looking for a new treasurer at Colton, as our current treasurer David is stepping down in 2027 and we'd like someone else on board to ensure a smooth transition. More details on this in next month's Contact newsletter.



Please pray for all the volunteers at Colton and listen to what God might be calling you to do in 2026.

Christ Church Guild

The new year got off to a good start with our now traditional fish and chip supper and quiz. This was followed by three very interesting speakers on three very different subjects. As you can see from the programme, February looks just as good, especially the chocolate lady! If there is something which appeals to you feel free to join us for that evening. We have been pleased with the attendance on these cold dark nights and thank all attendees for their loyalty.

Lastly, dates for your diary: our spring plant sale will be held on Thursday 14th, Friday 15th and Saturday 16th May.

3rd February – A sweet treat!

Chocolatier Sarah Goodwill shares the secrets of making chocolates and treats for all occasions, special or just because.....

10th February – England and the Founding of the Modern World

Philip Ashe talks about the drawbacks of always being first.

17th February – Patmos

Brian Purfield recounts his recent pilgrimage to Patmos.

24th February – The Pastoral Poet

Rev'd Kerry Tankard shares poetry he has written reflecting some of the wonderful lives he has encountered in his ministry.

3rd March – Frank and Friends

A musical evening with Frank Binks (on the guitar) and his talented friends.

“The true call of a Christian is not to do extraordinary things, but to do ordinary things in an extraordinary way”

- Dean Stanley

LENT 2026 – “A place for us”

Five sessions of bible study, discussion and reflection based on the new movie “West Side Story”.

Sessions run on Monday evenings at 7.30pm at Garforth Methodist Church, and repeated on Tuesdays at Colton Methodist at 2.30pm (in other words, you don't need to attend on Monday *and* Tuesday, just choose whichever suits you).

All are welcome to attend any or all sessions as we journey together through Lent.



Get ready for Race Night

Saturday 21st March 2026, 6.30pm -10.30pm
at St Mary's Community Hall, Whitkirk



Join us for an exciting in-person evening full of speed thrills and friendly competition. Whether you're a racing fan or just looking for a fun night out, Race Night has something for everyone. Cheer on your favourites, enjoy the lively atmosphere and make some great memories. Don't miss out on this awesome event – see you there! Family and friends welcome. All money raised to be shared between 17th Colton Methodist Scout group and to support a Young Leader with our group, who has been selected to attend the World Scout Jamboree.

Tickets available in advance only – on sale now. Book via:
<https://forms.gle/wSFhQx3rbdWTFEwD8>

Adult tickets: £3.00. Child tickets £1.50. Pie & pea supper or hot dogs available to order only at time of booking tickets (payment in advance please).

Any queries to Alison Franklin by email
alison.franklin@leedstemplars.org.uk

Thank you from Crossgates Methodist Church...

...to everyone who joined carol singing on the steps at Crossgates Church, just before Christmas. £101.29 was raised for Action for Children. Well done everyone—you thoroughly deserved your warm drink & mince pie afterwards!

Home



The writer, Marilyn Robinson, wrote in her novel "Home", "Weary or bitter or bewildered as we may be, God is faithful. He lets us wander so that we will know what it means to come home".

It is now more than six years since I moved my life with my English wife, Marie, to Britain. During those many months, while I have not suffered from the homesickness I anticipated, there have been frequent moments when I have wondered what place my heart recognized as "home".

While I spent more than a third of a century in the hills of western Massachusetts and miss daily a proximity to so many beloved friends there, the truth is I do not look back to the well-remembered hills and valleys there as "home". Nor do I hold the old family house, a place still treasured as a safe and loving refuge where I grew as a child amidst so much loving support, as my real "home".

I suspect the tug of "home" has really to do with where one finally feels he/she belongs, the place where one can fully settle, exhale all yearning to be elsewhere. If home is the place where each of us can come back into our true self, the place we can know true rest, be welcomed as if we had never been away, perhaps none of us should hope to find "home" in this life.

Perhaps, we are all wanderers sheltering in temporary places of respite until each of us is called "home", the final state of return. Reunion with a peace so comforting, so fulfilling that it will always elude our puny imaginations.

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

Forthcoming Services at Christ Church

1 February	Mr John Summerwill
8 February	Christ Church Worship Team
15 February	Rev Janet Titterton Holy Communion
22 February	Rev Nicola Robinson
1 March	Mrs Naomi Polson

Ash Wednesday Service

18 February, 7.00pm at Cross Gates Methodist Church
Rev Norma Davey

Easter At Christ Church

Just an advance notice for you – on Easter Sunday, there will be Holy Communion at 9am, followed by an Easter breakfast, with morning worship at the usual time of 10.30am. This allows Janet to take a communion service at Cross Gates on the same morning.

World Day of Prayer

This year's World Day of Prayer service will take place on Friday, 6th March at St Mary's Church, Whitkirk.

The World Day of Prayer enables women everywhere to share the ideas and concerns of the writing country. This year's service has been prepared by a team of Christian women from Nigeria. More details nearer the time.

Forthcoming Services at Colton

1 February	Mr Tom Ferguson All-Age Parade Service
8 February	Rev Steven Jones
15 February	Rev Norma Davey Holy Communion
22 February	10.30am Mrs Hazel Featherstone 4.00pm Family JAM
1 March	Mrs Ann Johnson

Colton – Date For Your Diary

Thursday 5th February 7.30pm - Colton Church Council Meeting at church, open to all Colton Church members.

Contact Deadline

Due to upcoming holiday, I'm afraid there's a very short deadline for March's edition of Contact. I need to have everything with me by 5pm on Tuesday 17 February. Apologies if this means some items will carry over to the April edition.

Thanks – Ed

andybirkett76@gmail.com
07952 861316

Some Joy from America

A group of Buddhist monks are currently engaged in a 'Walk for Peace', walking 2,300 miles from their temple in Texas to Washington DC. The aim of the pilgrimage, which started on October 26th and is scheduled to end on February 11th-13th, is to promote unity and compassion. They are walking 20-30 miles a day and, as news of their walk has spread, churches and community venues have opened up to feed the monks and give them somewhere to rest. Lots of people are following for a while and the monks are engaging with the local people.

If you are able, go to dhammacetiya.com and follow their daily progress. Also, please pray for them on their remaining journey.

(Shared by Audrey Young)



**“We will
never
change
the world
by going
to church.
We will
only
change
the world
by *being*
the
church.”**

WHO TO CONTACT

Senior Stewards

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Kathryn Glasby (Colton)	07503 740500	kathryn.glasby@talktalk.net
Elaine Preston (Colton)	07760 737515	ea.preston@ntlworld.com

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Shirley Dann (Colton)	0113 2820828	colton.mcbookings@outlook.com

Ministers

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Rev Nicola Robinson (CC)	07572 986305	revnicola.robinson@gmail.com