

# CONTACT

CHRIST CHURCH HALTON  
COLTON METHODIST CHURCH

March 2026



## Nicola's Letter

This month, we continue to journey through the Season of Lent. A season in which we journey towards Easter. A season when we are encouraged to stop and notice what matters most in life. Stop and notice God.

It feels important we remember that before Jesus entered the wilderness, as He does at the start of Lent, he did not go without a blessing. He did not venture into that challenging terrain, without hearing himself named by God: Beloved.

In our own lives, there are times we can experience our own wildernesses. The wilderness of long-term physical and/or mental illness. The wilderness of grieving for a loved one. The wilderness of feeling unsafe and afraid to come out. The wilderness of losing our job/independence/security.

Yet in this wilderness, as we recognised at Christmas – Emmanuel – God with us. God with us in the pain. God with us in our loss and sickness. God with us in our fear. God with us in the moments of joy. God with us in looking forward to a hopeful future.

As we journey through Lent, we too should not begin the journey without a blessing. We should not miss hearing: “Beloved” sounding in our ear. The message that each and every person, each and every life and part of this Earth is beloved. Because God’s abundant love in and for everything impacts on absolutely everything in our lives and world, including the way we treat our earth, our local and global neighbours, ourselves.

At times we may feel small, old, broken, useless, a failure... but looked at in God’s eyes, there is so much more to every being and every life. It is true of every person and each part of Creation; all are Beloved. This belovedness cannot be changed or taken away.

### **THE BRAVEST THING WE CAN DO**

Trust your belovedness.

Let it be a protest,  
an act of resistance,  
a song of celebration.

Trust your belovedness in a world  
that is rarely satisfied.

Wear it like a badge of honor.

Speak it as confidently  
as your last name.

Tattoo it to your heart.

When outside forces  
chip away at your sense of self,  
when life asks you  
to hand over the keys,  
remember.

Remember creation.

Remember how it was good,  
so very good.

Let that truth hum through your veins.

Sing it so loud that it drowns out  
the weariness of the world,  
for the bravest thing we can ever do  
is trust that we belong here.

- Rev Sarah Speed

## Meet The Team



Over the next few months, members of the URC Ministry Team will be presenting “get-to-know-you” pieces. Firstly, Rev Geoff Ellis:

“Jackie and I discovered the United Reformed Church in 1982. After a warm welcome at St Andrew’s Roundhay we became members. Our daughters Hannah and Ruth were baptised by Revd Eric Allen. In 1993 I was encouraged to answer a call to be an Elder. This was preceded by an experience that was preparing me for a pastoral ministry. I drove my mother-in-law to visit her sister who was coming to the end

of her life in an Oban hospital. She told us no one had been to pray with her. We prayed with her. As we had to travel back to Yorkshire, I made a promise to remember her in my daily prayers. It was a time when I was being challenged and being drawn closer to God in other ways too.

After 3 years of Eldership I embarked on Workshop - a one-year Christian Discipleship Course. Then came the call to train as a lay preacher, and later I was encouraged to test a call to be a Minister.

In 2004 I was ordained and inducted as a Non-Stipendiary Minister at Beeston Hill United Free Church. This congregation had previously encouraged me on placement as a trainee preacher. Jackie and I had an amazing time there working with such a faithful group of Christians. The church hosted Kidz Klub Leeds on Tuesday evenings, supported asylum seekers who joined the church, worked together with local churches, and welcomed all who came through the church doors.

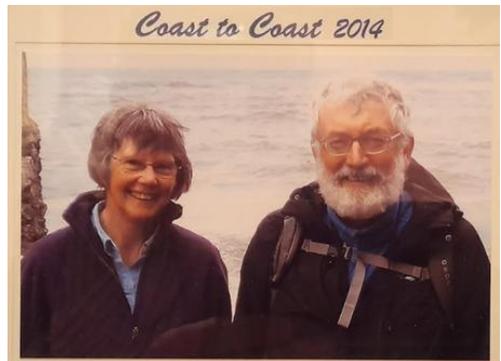
The experience of leading worship in the Leeds URC churches gave me new insights into ways of being church and doing mission. I developed an appetite for closer working together across our churches and with other denominations. I have preached widely in URC, Methodist, Baptist and Anglican churches. I took semi-retirement in 2008 from my paid job in industry and responded to an initiative by Revd Kevin Watson to encourage Leeds URC Ministers to work closer together and support all our churches in local mission. (*Continued...*)

*(Meet The Team – Continued)*

I was active in discussions that followed in our Mission and Care Group. I served as interim Minister at Headingley St Columba and then at West Park URC. Finally in 2022 our Leeds URC Partnership of 8 churches was formed with the induction of a Ministry Team in a joint service at St Andrew's. From 2012-2024 I also worked as a Methodist Homes Chaplain at the Assisi Place care scheme in Hunslet.

We each respond in different ways to Jesus' call and each has a unique part in sharing God's love. We can help each other in that. My story and call have been supported by many friends from across our churches. Thank you. You have encouraged me to share the faith we are all part of.

Our family includes two daughters, two sons-in-law and four grandchildren. Ask me and I'll tell you more about them. Ask me about my hobbies and how I relax, and I'll tell you about gardening, walking in the mountains, painting in watercolours or acrylics, and playing classical guitar. We have good memories of long-distance walks including the 200 miles Coast to Coast and the 150-mile Pilgrim's Way from Winchester to Canterbury. We now take shorter walks on well-trodden paths, sometimes high in the Swiss mountains.



Every blessing  
Rev'd Geoff Ellis"

## **Macmillan Coffee and Carols**



Thank you to Concordia for leading the music and singing at Christ Church for this Christmas event. And thank you to everyone who came to enjoy the carols, some coffee and some cake. When the donations were totalled up, we were able to donate £350 to Macmillan Cancer care. Thank you again to everyone who contributed.

## Waterproofs and Wellies

Hardcastle Craggs has a scheme in place encouraging families with children of all ages to get out and about walking, whatever the weather. Some of the families are low income and as such are not fully prepared for the terrain which can be muddy and wet. The plan is to have a supply of waterproofs and wellies that can be loaned for the duration of their time there.



If anyone has any gear they no longer require, child, teenager or adult and would be willing to donate to this cause please get in touch with Elaine, 07760 737515, I can collect if required. Thanks.

Church – you're never too bad to come in and you're never too good to stay out!

Some people are kind, polite, and sweet-spirited - until you try to sit in their seat at church.

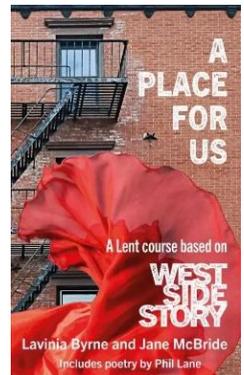
I wonder if Moses had a headache – after all, God gave him two tablets!

## LENT 2026 – “A place for us”

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

A reminder that these sessions run on Monday evenings at 7.30pm at Garforth Methodist Church and are 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 as we journey together through Lent.



## **Christmas Shoe-Boxes**

Christ Church filled 35 boxes with gifts ahead of Christmas, Colton filled 15, and via Facebook Julie Digings coordinated 148 boxes from the local community. All the boxes were distributed from Meeting Point Café in local children in Harehills. A huge thank you to everyone who got involved, including Concordia who sang carols outside the café as the boxes were given out.

## **COLTON PLANT SALE**

**SATURDAY 16TH MAY 10AM TO 12 NOON**

Please make sure you've noted this popular event in your 2026 diary!

Offers of help either on the day and/or on the Friday afternoon for set up, would be much appreciated – please see Alison, David or Jenny. Please also save any newspapers or bags you may have and bring them to church nearer the time.

## **Race Night**

Saturday 21st March 2026

6.30pm -10.30pm

at St Mary's Community Hall, Whitkirk

Tickets are still available for this Colton Scouts fundraising event, in advance only. Link to book:

<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: email

[alison.franklin@leedstemplars.org.uk](mailto:alison.franklin@leedstemplars.org.uk)

## Christ Church Guild

As I write this it is raining, again. We have had so much rain during the past few weeks, but we have to count our blessings as some people have had to endure landslides, flooding and losing their homes due to coastal erosion. However there are signs of Spring – snowdrops and crocus are evident, in spite of the weather.

We have enjoyed some very informative speakers in the last few weeks and people have braved the weather to join us on Tuesday evenings. In fact on Tuesday 3rd February, we had Sarah Goodwill, a Chocolatier, and it was so well attended that we had to get out more chairs to accommodate the enthusiastic members of The Guild. We truly have something special with The Guild; it is not just the invited speakers but the fellowship that we enjoy. Some of the friendships go back more than 66 years and the welcome extended is not only to old friends who have not been able to come for some time but also to those coming for the first time. It is truly special.

This programme is nearing an end, yet we welcome:

**3rd March** - Frank Binks with his talented friends who will entertain us with a musical evening.

**10th March** - Rev. Ron Hicks brings his collection of brightly coloured waistcoats and shares the stories behind them.

**17th March** - Jane McKeown talks about the Origins of Nursery Rhymes and makes us wonder if these are suitable for children.

**24th March** - Our AGM along with Tea/Coffee and cake. This is your opportunity to chat about The Guild, what is important to you and what you would like to see/hear and how you might be able to offer help, even in a small way; it makes it ours – not just the Planning Committee. I encourage you to come along.

**31st March** - Rev Nigel Wright leads our thoughts and prayers in our Holy Week Service.

*Tony Pickles  
Co-President with Peter Grubb*

## **Messy Church @ Christ Church**

**Saturday 14 March 2-4pm**

Last month 22 kids enjoyed an afternoon of fun, craft, stories, worship, singing, dancing – and a slice of cake to mark Sue’s big birthday! If you’d like to come to our March session (and *all* are welcome!) please let Helen know, or message us via Facebook. All children must be accompanied by an adult throughout, and we operate on a “pay as you feel able” basis, suggesting £1 per child.

### **Recipe Corner – Easter Egg Blondies**

Preheat your oven to 190C/170C Fan/Gas 5. Grease an 20cm loose-bottomed tin and line it with greaseproof paper.

Melt 250g of butter in a pan, then stir in 150g of light brown soft sugar and 125g of caster sugar. Cook for a couple of minutes until the mixture is a toffee colour and looks smooth and glossy. Take off the heat.

In a large bowl, whisk up 2 eggs, 1½ tsp of vanilla extract and a pinch of salt. Whisk in the sugar and butter mixture until combined, and then whisk in 300g of plain flour until smooth.

Pour your batter into the cake tin and bake for 20 minutes.

In the meantime, cut 125g of sugar-coated mini-eggs in half. When the 20 minutes baking time is up, take the blondie out of the oven, scatter the halved chocolate eggs on top, along with 100g of whole ones, and press them gently down into the mixture. Bake for another 10 minutes.

Cool for at least 10 minutes before cutting – serve warm or cold.

## RAISING FUNDS FOR CHRIST CHURCH

If anyone has any items that they would like to donate to sell for Christ Church can you please let me have them and I will advertise them on Ebay and try and sell them. Most items would be appreciated but they have to be in good condition. I will photograph them and place them on Ebay and then the money will go into the Christ Church funds. I have already sold a number of items that I have been given and raised money this way for Church. Thank you. - Jean Hopkinson

### WORDPLAY

Have you come across the fascinating idea of a “contranym”? It’s a term that refers to a word which is its own opposite. Does that make sense? Here are some examples:

**FAST:** without moving (“held fast”) or moving quickly

**DUST:** to remove dust (with a duster) or to add dust (dust with icing sugar)

**OVERSIGHT:** An accidental omission or error, or close scrutiny

**SANCTION:** to give approval to something, or to impose a penalty

**CLIP:** to attach, or to cut off

No wonder people say English is a confusing language!

### **CHRIST CHURCH EASTER BREAKFAST**

We will be having our Easter morning breakfast again this year but please note that it will be at a later time of 9.20 as we are having a short communion service at 9am. A list will be available in the next couple of weeks so everyone can sign up. Please let us know if you have any allergies too. - Helen

## Forward Planning Request for Helpers

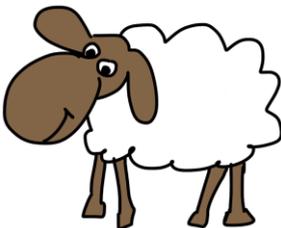
On Saturday 4th July here at Colton we are planning on celebrating the Church Anniversary with a Summer Fair including children's games, refreshments, raffle etc.

In order to make this happen we will need a team of volunteers to help in different locations at church, setting up and during the event.

Please, if you feel that you would be able to help in anyway could you let Elaine or Kathryn know. Then we will know if it is a viable proposition. Thank you.

## Surviving the Wet

It has been nearly four weeks of fierce winds, daily bouts of rain and the absence of sunshine. The presence of 30-60 mph gusts of wind feels unrelenting, causing an unsettled unease at my core. The wet now seems omnipresent and inescapable. I want to find someone responsible for this prolonged plague of ugly weather and complain angrily about its protracted curse. There in the pasture outside the windows sheep are grazing, buffeted by the winds and rain but taking no real notice of the unpleasant conditions. Their heads are down, contentedly feeding on the sweep of still luscious green grass. Doing what they are meant to be doing, regardless of the weather, these sodden woolly creatures have a great deal to teach me if only I could put aside



my stubborn hubris and accept the nourishment of the moments I have been given.

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

## A Question of Rain

Lord,

I know we need the showers and rain  
For crops and flowers and such.

But can I ask a question?

Why do we need so much!?

*By Elaine P*



## Lent and Easter Offerings at Colton

A reminder that 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'd like to then donate the money saved to charity here are our suggestions:

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. These 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. You can find more information at [solar-aid.org](http://solar-aid.org)

Please pass on any donations to Colton Church by 12th April.

Easter Offering envelopes: These will be available on Sunday 29th March (Palm Sunday) and Sunday 5th April (Easter Day). The money will go to the World Missions Fund via the Leeds North and East Methodist Circuit.

Support through prayer, for the work of the above organisations, will also be appreciated.

## Colton Dates for your diary

- Sunday 10th May: Church Annual General Meeting following worship
- Saturday 16th May: Colton Plant Sale

## Journeys of Discipleship with Matthew's Gospel



A  
time for  
exploration and  
discussion  
over **five**  
weeks,  
led by the Leeds  
URC Partnership  
Ministry Team

Beginning on:

**Monday 23 February** 11:00am, Beeston Hill United Free Church, Malvern Road, LS11 8PD

**Tuesday 24 February** 7:30pm, St Andrew's Roundhay United Reformed Church, Shaftesbury Avenue, LS8 1DS

**Wednesday 25 February** 7:30pm, on Zoom  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7019277749>

For more information,  
email: [revnicola.robinson@gmail.com](mailto:revnicola.robinson@gmail.com)

  
**LEEDS**  
UNITED REFORMED CHURCH  
PARTNERSHIP

**WORLD DAY OF PRAYER**  
A service for everyone!

**Friday 6 March**

*I will give you rest, come*

**Nigeria 2026**

Churches Together in East Leeds  
World Day of Prayer Service 2026

**2 pm on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March**

at

**St. Mary's Church, Whitkirk**

Selby Rd, Whitkirk, Leeds LS15 0AA

**Everyone is welcome.**



**INFORMED PRAYER PRAYERFUL ACTION**

24-7 365 Days a year Prayer movement Ecumenical International Women-led

[wwdp.org.uk](http://wwdp.org.uk)

Registered Charity Number 233242

## **Forthcoming Services at Christ Church**

1 March	Mrs Naomi Polson
8 March	Rev Norma Davey
15 March	Rev Nicola Robinson Holy Communion
22 March	Rev Janet Titterton (10.30am) Memorial Service (6.00pm)
29 March	Rev Geoff Ellis (Palm Sunday)
5 April Easter Day	Rev Janet Titterton (9.00am) Holy Communion  Mr Tom Ferguson (10.30am)

### **PALM SUNDAY PRAYER**

Ride on, oh Lord, with determination in your veins;  
ride on, despite what lies ahead for you.  
Ride on for those who shout 'Hosanna' and wave palm branches;  
ride on for those whose shouts turn to 'Crucify him!'  
Ride on, ride on in majesty.

Ride on and call us again to you,  
to your heart,  
to your way of compassion and love  
to follow you wherever you may ride.

## **Forthcoming Services at Colton**

1 March	Mrs Ann Johnson (All-Age Worship)
8 March	Mrs Mary Patchett
15 March	Rev Janet Titterton Holy Communion
22 March	Rev Norma Davey
29 March	Mr Grenville Jensen (Joint service with Cross Gates)
5 April Easter Day	Rev Joyce Nicholson All-Age Worship, Holy Communion

### **Additional Easter Services**

#### **Maundy Thursday (2 April)**

Colton, 7.30pm, Holy Communion with Rev Janet Titterton

#### **Good Friday (3 April)**

Churches Together Walk of Witness, leaving Colton at 10am  
Service at Cross Gates 11am with Rev Janet Titterton

#### **“Contact” Deadline**

Please let Andy have any articles or contributions for April's edition of Contact by 7pm on Tuesday 31 March. Many thanks.  
andybirkett76@gmail.com or 07952 861316.



Thanks to Gail's Mom Group (See Matthew 5:43-48) 03-09-2012

**HE WAS GREAT AT LOVING HIS ENEMIES  
... BUT NOT SO GREAT AT PICKING  
APPROPRIATE TIMES OR KNOWING HOW FAR  
TO TAKE IT**

## WHO TO CONTACT

### Senior Stewards

Helen Lappage (CC) 07415 058187

[helenlappage@sky.com](mailto:helenlappage@sky.com)

Elizabeth Moll (CC)

[elizabeth.moll@outlook.com](mailto:elizabeth.moll@outlook.com)

Kathryn Glasby (Colton) 07503 740500

[kathryn.glasby@talktalk.net](mailto:kathryn.glasby@talktalk.net)

Elaine Preston (Colton) 07760 737515

[ea.preston@ntlworld.com](mailto:ea.preston@ntlworld.com)

### Room Bookings

Pauline Wood (CC) 0113 2647510

[paulineawood@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:paulineawood@yahoo.co.uk)

Shirley Dann (Colton) 0113 2820828

[colton.mcbookings@outlook.com](mailto:colton.mcbookings@outlook.com)

### Ministers

Rev Janet Titterton 0113 5485136

[janet.titterton@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:janet.titterton@yahoo.co.uk)

Rev Nicola Robinson (CC) 07572 986305

[revnicola.robinson@gmail.com](mailto:revnicola.robinson@gmail.com)