

# CONTACT

CHRIST CHURCH HALTON  
COLTON METHODIST CHURCH



May 2026

## Janet's Letter

As we begin the month of May I am taken in my memory to a Sunday School Anniversary service. Do you remember them? All the Sunday School children in their Sunday best, sat on the platform, and one by one presenting a poem, reading or song that they had practised. The audience was their long-suffering parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles. The concert was followed by the prize-giving, when each child received a book, and then a good old Methodist tea for all!

My memory takes me back to me, aged 3, belting out an enthusiastic if not totally tuneful rendition of "Sing a song of Maytime" – a hymn which I can still remember. The chorus went "May-time, play-time, God has given us May time! Thank Him for His gifts of love, and sing a song of spring". It is good to see the signs of spring around us, flowers, blossom on the trees, blue skies and warm sunshine. But even better to know that it is God's gift of love to us.

As we live in a world that seems to grow increasingly mad and unstable, as we watch rockets flying around the moon, as we wonder how we are going to be able to fill the car with petrol next week; isn't it good to be reminded that the earth is the Lord's, and everything in it? That God is good and faithful, and that no matter what happens around us, we have His promise of love and grace. I hope you are able to hold on to that thought when the news, local, national or world-wide, is alarming and a cause of anxiety.

I would like to remind you of these words, favourites of mine, written 500 years ago by St Theresa of Avila:

Let nothing disturb you, let nothing frighten you,  
All things are passing away: God never changes.  
Patience obtains all things. Whoever has God lacks nothing;  
God alone suffices.

So, let's thank God for His gifts of love today and every day.

*With my love and prayers,*  
*Rev Janet*

*(Meet The Team, continued)*

So, I candidated and was recommended to train for Ministry of Word and Sacraments at Northern College in Manchester. Alongside undertaking an MA in Contextual Theology, my placements included the Scottish Episcopal Church, L'Arche Community, Workplace Chaplaincy, the Presbyterian Church in Taiwan and the URCs in the Sheffield Team.

I was ordained and inducted into the Leeds URC Partnership in September 2022. For the last 3 years I have served as named minister with Christ Church, Headingley St Columba and Stainbeck and across all our Partnership churches with Quiet Days, Bible studies, shared worship and training. My hope and prayer for the Partnership going forward is that we can be flexible, adaptable and open to following where the Spirit is leading. To me, this means a Ministry Team which draws on all our gifts and skills across our churches. My calling as a minister is rooted in a faith that prayerfully and actively follows the Way of Jesus. A calling characterised by flexibility and openness to new possibilities, which offers welcome and hospitality to all, highlighting our evolving understanding of God's inclusive love. In practical terms, this means actively seeking and nurturing relationships with schools, ecumenical partners, marginalised groups.

The promises I made at my ordination mean I take my calling to serve the wider denomination seriously and joyfully. As such, I place importance on playing an active role in Synod, denominational and ecumenical settings. I am the Convenor of our Synod's Green Apostles group. In 2026-27, I'm serving as Chaplain to the URC Youth Moderator. I am also part of the ecumenical planning group for Pride Church Leeds which holds a service and gathering for our LGBTQ+ Christian community once a month.

Alongside being a minister, I am a daughter, a sister, an auntie, a friend. One of the great joys of my life is being an Auntie to 3 nephews and 2 nieces. I am also a proud companion to Maisie, my 10 and half-year-old cockapoo. My favourite way to refresh and relax is to walk with Maisie: in the woods, by the sea, through the park. I am an avid reader, knitter and Lego builder (though I haven't quite mastered the art of being able to do all three at the same time!) I also enjoy baking, watching Star Trek, taking photographs and trying my best at Pilates. I treasure holidays with my family and friends.





## Meet the Team – Rev Dr Nicola Anne Robinson

I grew up in a family where faith was integrated into my every day, daily life: prayers at home, attending a Catholic primary and high school and church every Sunday. I remember as a small child simply knowing that God is with us wherever we are.

Church in my teens was more difficult. I continued praying and reading the

Bible. But I experienced exclusion and discrimination due to my sexuality. During postgraduate studies at the University of York in my early 20s, a friend invited me to the ecumenical chaplaincy where we were encouraged to be open to new ideas, ask questions and engage in theology and social justice projects.

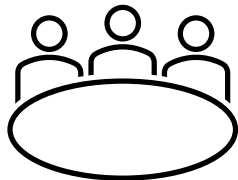
When I moved home to Edinburgh after completing my PhD, I was drawn to the United Reformed Church because of our commitment to justice, inclusion, education and engaging with local and global communities as well as the way our decision-making rests in the hands of those on 'the ground' rather than hierarchy. I became a member then an Elder (at 28!) and very involved with the wider Synod.

At this time, my life changed forever when my beloved cockapoo, Maisie, arrived in my life. Over the next two years, I worked as the Communications and Engagement Officer with Edinburgh Churches Together and volunteered in mental health chaplaincy. I also trained and became an Assembly Accredited Lay Preacher, co-wrote and facilitated Bible studies, convened our LGBTQ+ ministry team, acted as Synod rep on Mission Council.

As I lived and reflected on these experiences, I felt God so palpably present. At the same time, I began to read and read about women and ordination: their lives, their struggles and joys and their sense of calling and ministry. And I came to the startling realization that I could see bits of myself reflected in these women's lives. I was startled yet also reassured that the stirrings of my heart could possibly be real.

## Colton Church Annual General Meeting

Just a reminder that we will be holding our church AGM immediately following worship on **Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> May**. We invite anyone attending worship to stay for a cuppa and take part in the meeting.



This is your chance to contribute to discussions about various aspects of the life of the church in Colton and receive an update on how the Circuit review is progressing.

A report booklet, covering various aspects of Colton Church, is now available (see Kathryn) and there will opportunity in the meeting for feedback on any of the reports.

## Thank You!

A big THANK YOU to Wharfdale Men's Shed, especially founder member of the organisation Bob Miles, for the design and construction of our offertory bag stand. The stand has been made from recycled oak shelving.

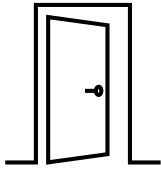
The story behind the wood is that in 1972 Bob's dad was a caretaker at a Leeds school which was closing and more than 70 oak wood shelves were destined for the skip! Needless to say they were rescued, stored and gradually used for various projects. The stand now at Colton is the last piece of that shelving. As Colton now holds a Bronze Eco Church Award it is more than fitting that the stand, used every Sunday, is made from recycled wood, part of our ethos as an ECO church. Thank you. *Elaine and Kathryn*

**Q: Where is cricket mentioned in the bible?**

**A: In Genesis – in the big inning.**

**Q: How did Noah see on the ark at night?**

**A: With flood lights.**



## Welcome Spaces

Here at Christ Church we take part in Welcome Spaces (formerly known as Warm Spaces) sponsored by Leeds City Council. We use our Saturday Coffee morning as that welcoming space where all can come and have a drink and cake, conversation and friendship. This is done on a pay as you can basis, giving sometimes lonely people a chance to sit and talk to others in a safe warm friendly space.

Each month from November to March we make a report back to Warm Spaces answering questions they ask – they're not personal questions, just numbers of people attending, and whether we offer any activities or other types of help. For instance during this period we have, in conjunction with Halton Pharmacy, been able to offer Blood Pressure testing and also a Spring Covid vaccination session.

The Warm Spaces team collates the answers to their question and sends them out monthly so that we can see what is happening throughout the group. In March alone, 166 Welcome Spaces reported that they had offered 1,249 sessions, with 21,381 people visiting. So 21,381 people found somewhere safe and warm to go during just one cold winter month in Leeds.

The team at Welcome Spaces sent this message to all who take part.

“Together, this winter, we delivered **4,732** Welcome Spaces session across Leeds, and we welcomed **80,357** visitors!! Wow, well done, the scheme is now in its 4th year and it's official, that is a record number, both for the number of sessions and visitors.”

Here at Christ Church Halton we are proud to be a part of Welcome Spaces and thanks go to all the people from Christ Church and beyond who do this not just during the winter months but every Saturday throughout the year.

## Subject vs. Object

Recently I listened on the radio to an interview with a well-respected writer of the natural world. She pointed out that her writing had taken an important evolutionary step, ceasing to consider all life in Nature as objects of study and description and beginning to write about the vast collection of nature's life forms as subjects, thus more worthy of respect and, perhaps, reverence.

This qualitative shift in relationship reminded me of the Jewish thinker, Martin Buber's seminal book, "I and Thou". Buber argues that the human relationship with God should be one of mutual intimacy, not one which objectifies the Divine. Seeing fellow human beings, nature's inhabitants and God as objects precludes full and bountiful relationships with the teeming world in which we find ourselves. Perhaps there is a profound wisdom in cultivating peace and harmony if we can manage to perceive all life around us as fellow subjects no longer carrying any stigma of being mere objects.

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

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## Christian Aid Week 10th to 16th May 2026

There will be a special collection at Colton Church on Sundays 10th and 17th May in aid of Christian Aid. Envelopes will be available for any donations and please gift aid if you can. Thank you.



Good luck to all who are sitting exams this summer at school, college or university. We wish you well.

## **Frank Ireland 21.12.1919 – 30.3.2026**

Frank was born in a little fishing village in Cornwall. He was a Sea Scout and a member of the Church choir where he met his wife Audrey. Frank was in the navy during the war, and then Frank and Audrey were married in 1945 with Audrey's best friend Pauline as bridesmaid. Sadly Audrey died in 2007. Frank and Pauline remained in touch with each other – Frank invited Pauline to spend a holiday in Cornwall and then Pauline invited Frank to Leeds. They decided it was silly to have homes in Cornwall and Leeds so they decided to get married, and the wedding was at St Theresa's church in 2013.

Pauline continued to worship at St. Theresa's and Frank started to worship at Christ Church. On his first visit to Christ Church, he was welcomed by Joyce and Barrie Rudge who sat with him during the service, and they became close friends. Pauline died in 2021 but Frank continued to worship at Christ Church, although his mobility deteriorated and he became dependant on Barrie for transport. When Barrie died I was asked to take Frank on his hospital visits and any other events where possible.

Frank was a member of Christ Church Guild and enjoyed the many coffee afternoons and concerts that were held, he attended Luncheon club on a Thursday and coffee mornings at St Marys on a Friday. He was a supporter of the Seamen's Mission and on one occasion when the Guild speaker was from the Mission he was presented with a tie - he was immensely proud of his gift.

Frank remarked on many occasions how blessed he was to have so many friends and appreciated everything that was done for him. When we visited him, we would find him sat at his table either reading the scriptures, reading a newspaper or writing a letter. Frank had a long and happy life and we shall miss him.

*Joe & Barbara Harris*



Saturday 6th

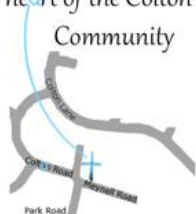
June

11am - 12

noon



Colton Methodist Church  
@ the heart of the Colton  
Community



Coffee Morning

@

Colton Methodist Church

We will be serving fairtrade tea, coffee and a selection of fairtrade snacks  
Come and enjoy some refreshments and celebrate our Eco award with us!



Proceeds by donation to  
A Rocha UK's Eco Church  
programme and future  
eco projects at Colton



Parking at the church premises is limited, so please walk to the event or use public transport.  
If parking nearby, please keep access clear for neighbouring properties.

## **Christ Church Guild**

May comes round again and again, a busy time for the Guild. The Plant Sale is almost upon us. The dates and times are Thursday, 14th, Friday 15th and Saturday 16th, opening at 9am each day and closing at 4.30pm on Thursday and Friday, 12.30pm on the Saturday. This is a major fund-raiser for the church and serves as an excellent outreach into the community. There will be all the usual plants, plus the book stall and, of course, the refreshments. For one reason and another, this year we are particularly short of able-bodied help, especially setting out first thing in the morning and clearing away in the afternoon. If you are able to offer an hour here and there please let me know. Your help will be very much appreciated.

Meanwhile, the Planning Committee are busy organising the autumn programme. Some early talks include the history of Montague Burtons and Yorkshire's hidden wildlife. More details later. Watch this space!

Our summer programme gets underway on Tuesday, 26th May, with a coffee event at church, beginning at lunchtime and lasting through the afternoon. Again more details nearer the time. Everyone is invited to the summer events. Come along for a coffee/tea and a cake and a chat.

## **Colton Church Anniversary Weekend 4th & 5th July**

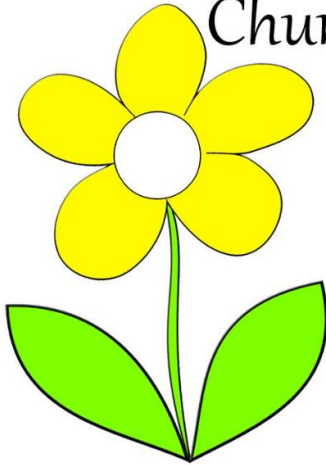
For our Church Anniversary weekend, we will be holding a Summer Fair on Saturday 4th July from 1pm to 4pm. If you've not already done so please let Elaine or Kathryn know if you are available to help. Worship on Sunday 5th July will be all age and led by Mrs Catherine Frieze.

Please make a note in your diaries! More details about our Anniversary celebrations will be circulated nearer the time, so keep an eye on the weekly notices and monthly Contact newsletter.

# Plant Sale @ Colton Methodist Church

May 16th

10am - 12 noon

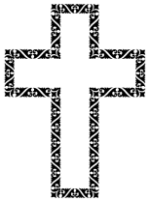


- Bedding plants
- Hanging baskets
- Raffle
- Refreshments & homemade cakes



**CASH ONLY**

Proceeds for Church funds



## ANNE HUGHES

Sadly Anne died on 9th April. She had been a Brownie leader at Christ Church, then a volunteer Street Angel, helping the homeless and unwell, during the early hours in Leeds City Centre.

For years she helped Gill and Pauline run the Table-Top Raffle Stall at Christ Church for Multiple Sclerosis. When the Table Tops finished Gill, Anne and Pauline were regulars at Saturday coffee. Anne always donated a Lemon Drizzle Cake and when she was in hospital her husband, Ian, made us one.

She was a very thoughtful, caring friend and neighbour and will be greatly missed.

We send our thoughts and prayers to Ian, Claire, Barry, Ellie and family.

## Colton Dates for your diary

Saturday 9th May: Quiz Night

Sunday 10th May: Church Annual General Meeting following worship

Saturday 16th May: Colton Plant Sale

Saturday 4th July: Summer Fair at Colton Church

## Christian Aid

Christian Aid week is 10th – 16th May this year. Christian Aid Week is a powerful expression of what can happen when compassion leads to action. It's our shared moment to come together – across churches, communities and households – to stand alongside people living in poverty. For one focused week, thousands of people across Britain and Ireland give, fundraise, pray and act together. Together, those actions make change possible.

This year what will you do? This Christian Aid Week, your support could help mothers in Nairobi, Kenya, facing the devastating reality of urban poverty and the daily struggle to feed their children. Most parents wake every single day knowing that they must go and earn money, otherwise their children won't eat that evening. Fridah knows this reality well. But she's determined to protect her grandchildren from hunger. Through Christian Aid's partner, Beacon of Hope, she's received tools, seeds and training to grow fresh vegetables in a small city space – food she can cook for her family or sell to earn income. "Now I can plan. I can buy this; I can buy that. I can help my family."

You can donate:

- on the Christian Aid website [www.christianaid.org.uk](http://www.christianaid.org.uk)
- by phone on 020 7523 2269
- by sending a cheque to Christian Aid, 35-41 Lower Marsh, London, SE1 7RL
- via the collection envelopes at Colton Church – see elsewhere in this edition of Contact.

# ?? Quiz Night at Colton Methodist Church ??

## Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> May at 7.15pm

Cost £2 per person, payable at the door.  
Light refreshments available, as well as a raffle.  
Cash only please.

We know you love a quiz, so please make a note in your diaries to keep the evening of Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> May free! Bring your friends and make a team or just join a team on the evening! This is a fundraiser to help pay for places at the Scout World Jamboree in 2027.

Here's a trivia question to warm you up – answer on the last page of Contact. Can you name all 8 playing pieces from the very first edition of Monopoly from 1935?

## Messy Church

Every month, on the second Saturday of the month, Christ Church hosts its ever-popular Messy Church – two hours of crafts, stories, singing, activities, food, drink and friendship, for children of all ages. And adults of course! Even if you're a dyed-in-the-wool Sunday morning person, we'd love to see you on a Saturday afternoon every now and then, especially as we always include a short act of worship as part of our session.



So whether you're 5 or 85, why not come and join our fun and fellowship? This month's Messy Church will be on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> April from 2pm-4pm. Children must be accompanied at all times, and we operate on a "pay as you feel able" basis, suggesting a donation of £1 per child.

## Forthcoming Services at Christ Church

3 May	Rev Tim Lowe
10 May	Mr Ted Britton
17 May	Rev Nicola Robinson
24 May	Local Arrangement
31 May	At Garforth Methodist Church Rev Janet Titterton
7 June	Rev Nicola Robinson

### "Contact" Deadline

Please let Andy have any articles or contributions for the June edition of Contact by 7pm on **Tuesday 26 May**. Many thanks.

andybirkett76@gmail.com  
or 07952 861316.

### To Frank Ireland on your next journey

Fair winds and following seas,  
Stand down ship-mate,  
Your watch is done,  
We will take over,  
And continue on.

*Margaret W*



## **Forthcoming Services at Colton**

3 May	Mr Andy Birkett All-Age Worship
10 May	Rev Janet Titterton Holy Communion
17 May	Mrs Susan Howdle
24 May	Mr Ted Britton
31 May	At Garforth Methodist Church Rev Janet Titterton
7 June	Mr Tom Ferguson All-Age Worship

### **Other services this month:**

Ascension Day – Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> May at Oakwood Church, at 4.00pm, led by Rev Nigel Wright and Rev Gemma Fleury

Ecumenical Service – Sundays 6pm at MHA Moor Allerton

Free Church Service – Thursdays 1.30pm, St Gemma's Hospice



04-13-2012

**"Just FYI, there's a TON of people down there thanking you that it's Friday"**

## WHO TO CONTACT

### Senior Stewards

Helen Lappage (CC)	07415 058187	<a href="mailto:helenlappage@sky.com">helenlappage@sky.com</a>
Elizabeth Moll (CC)		<a href="mailto:elizabeth.moll@outlook.com">elizabeth.moll@outlook.com</a>
Kathryn Glasby (Colton)	07503 740500	<a href="mailto:kathryn.glasby@talktalk.net">kathryn.glasby@talktalk.net</a>
Elaine Preston (Colton)	07760 737515	<a href="mailto:ea.preston@ntlworld.com">ea.preston@ntlworld.com</a>

### Room Bookings

Pauline Wood (CC)	0113 2647510	<a href="mailto:paulineawood@yahoo.co.uk">paulineawood@yahoo.co.uk</a>
Shirley Dann (Colton)	0113 2820828	<a href="mailto:colton.mcbookings@outlook.com">colton.mcbookings@outlook.com</a>

### Ministers

Rev Janet Titterton	0113 5485136	<a href="mailto:janet.titterton@yahoo.co.uk">janet.titterton@yahoo.co.uk</a>
Rev Nicola Robinson (CC)	07572 986305	<a href="mailto:revnicola.robinson@gmail.com">revnicola.robinson@gmail.com</a>

**Trivia answer:** Boot, dog, racing car, iron, ship, thimble, top hat and wheelbarrow