

CONTACT

CHRIST CHURCH HALTON
COLTON METHODIST CHURCH



June 2026

"Since we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him"

Romans 6:8

Janet's Letter

June is always a very important month for the Methodist Church in the UK, as Conference month. Ministers and lay people from all over the country come together to reflect on the work of the Church and to make decisions regarding the future. Sometimes, big decisions are made that affect us all.

One of the highlights of Conference is the ordination services, at which new presbyters and deacons are ordained for ministry. This year sees the 10th anniversary of my own ordination, which was in London in 2016.

As with any anniversary, I am looking back to that day and thinking about my hopes and dreams as I was ordained, and whether the reality has been anything like the expectations – the answer is “Definitely not!” I could never have imagined ministering through a global pandemic – what a strange time that was. I envisaged more baptisms and weddings, and certainly not so many funerals. And I definitely was not prepared for supporting church families through the painful and challenging process of deciding to close their church and declare “mission accomplished in this place”.

In May I drove up to my “home” church in Gateshead for their closing service. The church where I was baptised, confirmed and married. The church where my parents’ funerals were held. Reduced in 10 years from 60+ members to 10, and therefore no longer viable. It was a day of memories tinged with sadness and shock. No-one saw it coming.

People often say to me “It’s a good thing we don’t know what’s coming next”. Indeed, we don’t have any idea what awaits us for our own lives, for our loved ones, or for our churches. But we do know who holds the future, we do know that our times are in God’s hand, and we know that whatever comes we will have God’s presence, love and grace to help us through it.

I like to end my letters with a verse of a poem or hymn, and there’s only one hymn in my mind today; a Charles Wesley hymn that we sang together with sadness, but with faith and confidence at that final service in Gateshead.

“This, this is the God we adore. Our faithful, unchangeable friend. Whose love is as great and His power. And neither knows measure nor end. ‘Tis Jesus the First and the Last, whose Spirit shall guide us safe home. We’ll praise Him for all that is past. And trust Him for all that’s to come.”

May God help us all to praise Him for all that is past and trust Him for all that’s to come. With my love and prayers for you all. - Rev Janet

Churches Together in East Leeds – Quiet Day

Saint Mary's community Centre, Saturday 23 May

Amanda from Colton shares this review of the day with us:



Reverend Claire Honess led the day which was titled “Blessings”. We heard various Bible readings, but the passage we centred on was Numbers 6, vv24 to 26: “The Lord bless you and keep you, the Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you, the Lord lift up his countenance, upon you and give you peace”

The timetable for the day was split into three sections with plenty of time for quiet, either staying inside or being outside in the sunshine and fresh air. Coffee, lunch and afternoon breaks gave us time for conversations and to share friendship and fellowship with people we've met before and new acquaintances. Claire shared readings from scripture and other writers on the subject. She used various visual and practical aids to help us. There was a floor and finger labyrinth available all day which we could use in various ways.

Session 1 – “The Lord bless you and keep you”

We thought about laying down our burdens. We could use a pebble to put in the labyrinth or in a bowl. We could write on dissolvable paper which disappeared in the water.

Session 2 – “The Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you”

Having laid our burdens down, we heard about entering God's “Circle of Grace”. We thought about the many ways his light shines upon us and how gracious and loving God is to us.

/continued...

[Quiet Day, continued]

We pictured a place where we have felt at peace. We could choose a picture to hold in our hands or mind, and we imagined God being there with us knowing his presence and peace. We could light candles, but I found sitting outside in the warmth of the sun and the peace and quiet very meaningful.

Session 3 – “The Lord lift up his countenance, upon you and give you peace”

Claire spoke about how often we think of God looking down on us, although we know he is everywhere and not in a certain place. She used a photograph of a father lifting a child and the look of adoration on both faces helped us think of God holding us up in his loving care. We were able to write a postcard to ourselves to read in the future, which would remind us of the blessings we had received during the day.

We were encouraged to write down how we had felt blessed and spent some time praying for others, the world & ourselves then blessed each other before departing

This is just a snippet of my experience, and other participants might mention other aspects of the day which I have missed. I would encourage you to attend the Churches Together quiet day in the future as they are always different and you come away knowing you have been in the presence of other Christians and God.

THANK YOU

Many thanks to our Junior Church member Amelie who helped Joyce with our service at Colton on Sunday 17 May. Amelie read prayers so beautifully and very clearly, she also managed the impromptu reading of a letter which Joyce received a 'few' years ago, which she wanted to share with us. Well done Amelie.

An atheist was spending a quiet day fishing when suddenly his boat was attacked by the Loch Ness monster. In one easy flip, the beast tossed him and his boat high into the air. Then it opened its mouth to swallow both.



As the man sailed head over heels, he cried out, "Oh, my God! Help me!"

At once, the ferocious attack scene froze in place, and as the atheist hung in mid-air, a booming voice came down from the clouds, "I thought you didn't believe in Me!"

"Come on God, give me a break!!" the man pleaded. "Two minutes ago I didn't believe in the Loch Ness monster either!"

Colton Methodist Church 194th Anniversary Celebrations!

**Saturday 4th July 1pm to 4pm
Summer Fair
with tearoom, games, stalls, raffle
(something for all ages!)
At Colton Methodist Church**

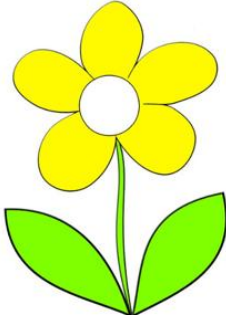
Come along to join in the fun, make some purchases, then sit and relax over refreshments including home baked scones and cakes. Any profit will go to Colton Methodist Church funds, to help maintain our premises as a space for worship and activities in Colton.

Please see Elaine or Kathryn if you are able to help with this event, such as with setting up, helping on the day & baking.

**Sunday 5th July 10.30am
All Age Worship**

If you've not joined us for worship before, why not give us a try?
Led by Mrs Catherine Frieze

A Big Thank You



around Colton.

Huge thanks to everyone who helped make the Plant Sale a big success on Saturday 16th May, especially to Alison and Jenny who organised and ordered the plants from the nursery, and to those who delivered leaflets and posters

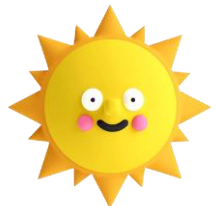
Thanks too, to all involved in set-up on Friday, organising the plants following delivery, and clearing up on Saturday, to all the wonderful bakers for the cakes and savouries and those serving refreshments to volunteers and visitors. Thanks to all on tea-making and washing up duties, those on plant duties keeping the plant tables topped up, plus our brilliant team of cashiers who dealt with the money throughout the day.

Also a big thank you to Ali for ordering and collecting, along with Phoebe, our lunch of fish and chips. Twenty-five tired volunteers sat down to a wonderful shared lunch together.

THANK YOU to everyone who helped/contributed in any way, we couldn't do it without you all. The final total was **£1,764**

CHRIST CHURCH SUMMER FAIR

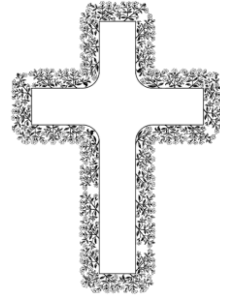
There's still time to contribute items for the summer fair on 6 June. If anyone has any items for the Tombola Stall, please let Jean Hopkinson have them. Items for the Church bric-a-brac stall can be passed to Yvonne. Also items would be appreciated for the Cake Stall on the morning of the fair. Thank-you.



In Loving Memory of Thelma Lappage

Her sons Paul, Steve and Philip are saddened to announce the passing of Thelma, aged 87, who died peacefully on 9th May 2026.

Thelma was a much-valued and cherished member of Christ Church, where she faithfully served as organist for many years, contributing greatly to the life and worship of the church community.



A funeral service will be held at Christ Church on Monday 15th June 2026 at 11:00am. All who knew and loved Thelma are warmly invited to attend.

It's hard...

To forget
To apologise
To save money
To be unselfish
To avoid mistakes
To keep out of a rut
To begin all over again
To make the best of things
To keep your temper at all times
To shoulder blame
To be charitable
To admit error
To take advice
To think first & act afterward
To maintain a high standard
To keep on keeping on
To forgive
BUT IT PAYS

(Seen in the vestry at Roscoe Methodist Church)

A Special Happy Birthday

Many happy returns and best wishes to Frank at Colton as he celebrates his 80th birthday in June. Have a wonderful day!

Celebrating Verity's Young Entrepreneur Award

We are delighted to celebrate Verity Ofori-Kuragu, who received a Star/Young Entrepreneur Award at the Yorkshire Change Makers Awards on Saturday 16th May. Verity and her brother Prince are members of the Junior Church here at Colton.

Verity is a 9-year-old young entrepreneur, published author, public speaker and confidence champion behind her brand, Authentically Verity. At just 8 years old, she wrote and published her first book, sharing her entrepreneurial journey and encouraging young people to believe in themselves and their potential.



Through her programme, "Confidently Me with Verity", she facilitates confidence-building sessions at her school, promoting self-belief, courage and resilience. Verity also serves within the church community through reading liturgies.

Working alongside her mum, Britta and brother, Prince, Verity is passionate about inspiring other young people to recognise their strengths, grow in confidence and

create opportunities for themselves.

As a church family, we celebrate Verity's wonderful achievement and pray for continued growth and success in all she does.



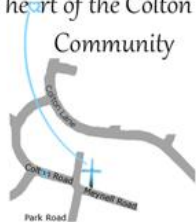
Saturday 6th

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.

Colton Church General Meeting Summary

Our meeting took place on Sunday 10th May after worship, chaired by Revd Janet. Minutes of the meeting will be available shortly, so here are the main points from the meeting:

- **Stewards:** Elaine, Kathryn and Sijmen are willing to continue as church stewards and Jenny and Dorothy as Sunday Stewards. The meeting agreed, and thanks were expressed to all five for all the work they do.
- **Church Council:** Revd Janet explained to the meeting that due to the membership of Colton Methodist Church now being below 49 there is no longer the need to appoint representatives to Church Council from the General Church Meeting. Instead, all members of the church are able to attend Church Council and serve as a trustee, providing they indicate their willingness to do this at each meeting. Those who are not members can also attend Church Council but cannot vote on any matters.
- **Church Reports:** Reports from the life of the church had been circulated prior to the meeting. Comments were invited and it was noted that reviews will take place about the attendance, and in some cases the format, of Family JAM, Wednesday JAM and Wednesday Coffee Morning. Thanks were expressed to all those submitting the reports and all involved in various roles that support the work of the church in Colton.
- **Finance:** A report from the Treasurer was included in the report document, with David highlighting some of the content to the meeting. Some suggestions were made relating to potential fundraising activities and including in any event publicity about worship at Colton. The meeting was reminded that David is stepping down as Treasurer in 2027 so all were asked to consider who might be approached to take on this role. Thanks were expressed to David for all his hard work.
- **Circuit discussions on the way forward for the Circuit:** Kathryn updated the meeting about the strategy group that has been set up to review how the circuit is structured, with representatives from other Circuits being invited to share how they have reviewed their circuits.
- **Church Charity of the Year:** it was agreed that due to the current financial situation at Colton the main fundraising events will be for church funds. It was recognised that special collections for various charities continue throughout the year, alongside items being collected for the Foodbank and Meeting Point.



Conference Worship on Sunday 28th June

The Methodist Conference for 2026 is taking place in Telford from 26th June to 1st July. On the Sunday (28th June) there will be worship at the Conference. Cross Gates Methodist Church have invited us to share in this event on the big screen, so we won't be

having worship or Junior Church at Colton Church that day. Please join us at Crossgates at 10.30am for worship and/or Family JAM at Colton at 4pm (see separate item about Family JAM in this month's Contact).

Revd Mark Slaney has been elected by The Methodist Conference to serve as President and Caroline Stead to serve as Vice-President, starting their year of office when the Methodist Conference opens in Telford. In case you don't already know, Caroline is from our District (Yorkshire West), so let's show our support for her by joining in with the Conference worship.

Weeding

It is very likely that weeding too often is endured as a kind of penance, an ordeal of tedium to achieve the taming of our beloved gardens in pursuit of cultivating joyful beauty. Inherently, weeding is a slow and repetitive activity requiring bending, and at times kneeling, without engaging the creative capacity of the brain. Usually weeding is not a social activity but rather a private pursuit, demanding attention to detail without a flush of personal fulfilment. Given the tenacity of the family of weeds encroaching upon much loved gardens, might it be wise to try to imagine satisfying ways to use weeding time to feel less onerous, less mind numbing? Perhaps we gardeners could employ weeding as a ripe opportunity for quiet meditation, prayer or just being mindful of participation in the great fecundity of Creation.

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

Christian Aid Week Collections

The Christian Aid Week collections at Christ Church, through the envelopes and at Saturday morning coffee, raised £312 – thank you all for your support for this cherished good cause.

Amazing Space

by Pauline Hardman

The seasons come and go
and quickly time move on,
don't miss the chance to see
the beauty of nature's song.
Spring comes suddenly
takes us by surprise,
the tiny shoots of hope appear
before our very eyes.
Enjoy the wonder of
magical transformation
breath in the freedom
and see it at your own pace,
for the world really is....
one amazing place.



Methodist Homes Sunday 14th June

Methodist Homes (MHA) Sunday is the annual opportunity to give thanks and celebrate MHA's specialist care and support services. At Colton Methodist Church we will be holding a special collection for MHA on Sunday 14th June. You can find out more about this organisation online at <https://www.mha.org.uk/>

Family JAM (Jesus and Me) At Colton Methodist Church

Our next Family JAM session will be held on Sunday 28th June at 4pm before we break for the summer.

We are currently reviewing the format of the sessions, looking at how it might continue and thinking of ways to increase the numbers at our sessions, so we are contacting all those who have been along to any of the sessions for their views.

If you'd like to contribute to the review and haven't already been contacted, or to find out more or let us know you are coming to the June Family JAM, please speak to Amanda, Elaine or Kathryn, email: info.coltonchurch@gmx.co.uk or message our Facebook page "Colton Methodist Church, Leeds".

Messy Church @ Christ Church

Messy Church is back for June, and we'll be thinking about God Our Father (with Father's Day coming soon after Messy Church – anyone would think we planned these things!) Come and join us on **June 13 between 2 and 4pm**, for the usual mix of crafts, stories, singing, activities, food, drink and friendship, for children of all ages. And adults of course!



So whether you're 5 or 85, why not come and join our fun and fellowship? 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, which goes towards the cost of all the craft materials, and the food and drink at the end of each session.

Forthcoming Services at Christ Church

31 May	At Garforth Methodist Church Rev Janet Titterton
7 June	Rev Dr Nicola Robinson
14 June	Rev Janet Titterton Holy Communion
21 June	Mrs Ann Johnson
28 June	Rev Dr Rosalind Selby
5 July	Rev Dr Nicola Robinson Holy Communion

The table-top sale held in May at Christ Church raised £306.60. Sue Guy sends her thanks to everyone who helped.

"Contact" Deadline

Please let Andy have any articles or contributions for the *combined July & August* edition of Contact by 7pm on **Tuesday 30 June**. Many thanks.

andybirkett76@gmail.com or 07952 861316.

Forthcoming Services at Colton

31 May	At Garforth Methodist Church Rev Janet Titterton
7 June	Mr Tom Ferguson All-Age Worship
14 June	Mr Fidelis Chinyama
21 June	Rev Janet Titterton Holy Communion
28 June	Conference Service <i>At Cross Gates Methodist</i>
5 July	Mrs Catherine Freize Church Anniversary – All-Age Worship

Colton Methodist Church Dates for Your Diary

- Saturday 6th June: Eco Church Coffee Morning 11am to 12 noon
- Thursday 18th June: Finance & Property Meeting 7.15pm
- Saturday 4th July: Summer Fair 1pm to 4pm
- Sunday 5th July: All Age Worship at 10.30am to celebrate Colton Church Anniversary
- Thursday 16th July: Church Council meeting at 7.30pm



01-06-2014

PLEASE TELL ME THAT YOU HAVE SOME
SORT OF MIRACLE FOR TRAFFIC JAMS

WHO TO CONTACT

Senior Stewards

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Elizabeth Moll (CC)		elizabeth.moll@outlook.com
Kathryn Glasby (Colton)	07503 740500	kathryn.glasby@talktalk.net
Elaine Preston (Colton)	07760 737515	ea.preston@ntlworld.com

Room Bookings

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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