

CONTACT

CHRIST CHURCH HALTON
COLTON METHODIST CHURCH

October 2026



Janet's Letter

This month, we share Janet's words on the closing of Cross Gates Methodist Church, taken from their newsletter, as we continue to pray for our friends there.

"To be honest, I have found it difficult to know what to say in this letter. The beginning of October sees the ending of a chapter in the lives of everyone at Cross Gates Methodist Church, and whether that chapter has been long or short, the past few months have been a very emotional time for us all.

Amid all the sadness, grief, tiredness and anger, what can I as your minister say that is positive and encouraging? Well, I'll try. At our final services in the church building, we gave thanks for all that has happened in the past. The Harvest Festival remembered the goodness of God since the time of creation and celebrated His faithful provision for all our needs. And the closing service in the afternoon celebrated the work, worship and witness of the people who have faithfully served God in the local church and community, as a response to God's faithful love and provision.

We turn the page and close the chapter that is Cross Gates Methodist Church. But as we turn the page, we open up another new chapter. For each one of us, God still has a plan, and God will continue to provide for us all that we need. This new chapter may look very familiar, or very strange. At the moment, we do not know what the future will look like for ourselves or the Cross Gates church building.

What we do know is that God is good, and God will be with us. When you have decided what the next chapter looks like for you – whether you will join another Methodist Church or a local church of another denomination – please do drop me a note and let me know so that I can keep my records up to date.

Wherever you go, whatever you do, you have not left God behind in Cross Gates. He will go with you, He will be with you, and all the blessings that have been yours in the past will continue to be yours into the future.

Go in peace, go in joy, go in love.

With my love and prayers for you all, Rev Janet"

NB Chapel Street, not Chapel Lane of course




Weds 7th October
10:30-12:00
Christ Church, Halton

Christ Church Halton
Chapel Lane
Halton
LS15 7RW

FLU & COVID-19
VACCINATIONS

Who is eligible?

COVID-19
Anyone aged 75+
Residents of adult care facilities
Immunosuppressed individuals

FLU
Anyone aged 65+
Clinically at-risk individuals
Care home residents
Carers of elderly or disabled people
Close contacts of immunocompromised individuals
Frontline social care and healthcare workers

Not eligible for NHS jab?
Private vaccinations also available

tinyurl.com/Christchurchvax



Scan the QR code to register for an appointment

or call **Catharine**
07882 432914

Because...

You complain about traffic – because you have a car.

You complain about housework – because you have a home.

You complain about cooking – because you have food to eat.

You complain about working – because you have a job.

You complain about waking up early – because someone needs you.

You complain about the laundry – because you have clothes to wear.

You complain about exercising – because your body is capable.

You complain about doing the dishes – because you had food on them.

So before complaining, pause for a moment. Take a breath. Look around. Think about the many blessings God has given you, things your past self might have been very grateful for. And remember - be careful what you complain about – it may be something you once prayed for.

- *Anonymous*

The Hub Cancer Support Group



This group was started 12 years ago and is open to anyone affected by cancer either currently or in the past, whether that be patients, carers or bereaved.

It's a warm friendly group and we meet on the first Monday of the month between 11am and 1pm. We start with a cuppa on arrival and an opportunity to chat and support each other followed by an activity, and we finish with a shared lunch – everything is free of charge. (We have regular fundraising events to cover costs)

Due to the closure of Cross Gates Methodist Church which has been our home for the last 12 years, we are relocating to a new venue from Monday 2 November 2026, from that date we are pleased to announce that we will be meeting at Christ Church, Halton.

We have a varied programme of activities which include handicrafts, chair-based exercises, bulb planting and quizzes to name but a few, but there is always still opportunity to find a listening ear. Our programme for 2027 hasn't been finalised yet so watch this space!

Our next two meetings are:

- 2 November- Crafts with Rachel
- 7 December- Christmas party

We are really grateful to everyone at Cross Gates Methodist Church for providing us with use of their premises and support and friendship over the last 12 years. and will miss everyone there, but are really pleased that the wonderful people at Christ Church are now welcoming us in.

New visitors are always welcome; there are no strangers, just friends you have not yet met, so we look forward to seeing you there.

You can find us on Facebook: @thehubcrossgates and, if you require more information, our email address is hubcsg@gmail.com

Hazel Featherstone

Any unwanted gifts in need of a home?

We'd like to replenish our stocks of decent quality items that could be used at Colton Church on our £1 stall at the Christmas Fair, or Christmas themed tombola prizes or something that would make a good raffle prize at one of our events. Just bring along to Colton Church and pass on to Alison, Elaine, or Kathryn. Thank you!

MESSY CHURCH @ CHRIST CHURCH

October means harvest-time, so at Messy Church we'll be thinking about this very theme! We meet between 2pm and 4pm on Saturday 10th October, starting with crafts and activities, followed by some time in the church for songs and stories with Andy, and then something nice to eat and drink to end the afternoon.

We ask that you pay as you feel able to, with a suggestion of £1 per child (accompanied at all times). All ages are welcome! We meet each month on the second Saturday of the month – next on 14th November

What a Month!

"September started with my grandson Thomas starting a new School, then a great holiday in Northumberland with Joan and Ivy, visiting Cresswell, and New Biggin, as well as lots of sandy beaches including Alnmouth, Amble and Bamburgh. I also made a special visit to Holy Island remembering Les.

Later I made a more local Visit to the Yorkshire Sculpture park and a super farm shop with cake. The end of the month sadly brought two funerals at Christ Church, Margaret Webb and Denis McKay. Both were celebrations of lives well lived.

Then a great a weekend with firstly an ordination and welcome to Ed Lyne who joins the URC ministry team. Then an amazing but thought-provoking Service for the closure of Cross Gates Methodist Church. What a great sing, we raised the roof, but where do we go from here? Our history has so many shared pathways." – *Alison Roberts*

Bernice Mary Hardy

It was wonderful to have a full church for the Service of Thanksgiving for the life of Mum, Bernice, on Friday 28th August and to know that Mum was loved by many. We extend our thanks to everyone who attended and supported us and who raised £480 for St Gemma's Hospice through the collection and online donations (a little more will be added through those with Gift Aid). We also wish to express our heartfelt appreciation for all the sympathy cards and the numerous written messages expressing how much Mum meant and how throughout her life, she had such a positive impact on the lives of so many.

In the Contact Magazine of June 2023, Margaret Whincup provided a transcript of an interview she did with Mum outlining her life which matches closely with Mums own handwritten version and thus the Eulogy delivered at the service. Since that time Mum managed a measure of independence despite her advancing years and progressing dementia.

During the service Heather reminded us "Mum was selfless to the end, always putting others before herself. Her strength, stamina, strong faith and sheer determination has seen her through the ups and downs life has thrown at her". Steve added Mum was "universally loved for her infectious enthusiasm". Amanda seeded some ideas for the address based on John Wesley's famous quote "Do all the good you can...." and rightly said of Mum "Her greatest gift to us was her faith. She was a true follower of Jesus. She underlined words in her Bible that inspired her and knew God's word is real and relevant. She knew she was loved by God and she loved him and loved others".

I'm sure it was knowing this that helped us all through our final days spent with Mum. We are thankful in turn that Mum was loved by so many and she left us with many happy memories to cherish. *Martin*

"But you, beloved, building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ that leads to eternal life."

Jude 20–21

Fund For Human Need

The Fund for Human Need (FHN) is a small Methodist-affiliated charity established in 1960 to relieve poverty and hunger. The charity was by Revd Donald McNeill, a Methodist Minister in Tooting, South London, together with a small group of other Methodists, who believed that they had a responsibility to help the poorest and most needy people. For many years the Fund was administered by the Methodist Church jointly with the Methodist Relief & Development Fund. When this was reorganised, the Fund became responsible for its own fundraising.

Relief payments (once only, up to a maximum of £120) are made, irrespective of faith, ethnic origin or social group to individuals in the UK. Priority is given to those who are destitute or have no income or benefits, to those who are particularly vulnerable and to those where a small amount of money will make a significant difference.

Payments are made to relieve personal distress. They are not made to cover debt, to pay university or college fees, or to individuals living outside the UK.

You can visit www.fundforhumanneed.org.uk to find out how to make a one-off donation, include the Fund in your will, or set up a regular payment.



Q: What do you call a factory which makes products that are just OK?

A: A satis-factory!

"Watch what you say around egg whites – they can't take a yolk!"

If your house is cold, stand in the corner – it's always 90 degrees!

YVONNE has a special birthday this month!

Best wishes from all at Christ Church. Miss Walker would have been proud of you!



Colton Dates For Your Diary

Thursday 8th October: Colton Church Council at 7.30pm at church.

Thursday 15th October: Colton Eco Church Group meeting 7.15pm at church.

Thursday 22nd October: Colton Vision Group Meeting 7.15pm at church.

Remembrance Sunday 8th November: all-age worship and parade service at Colton on Remembrance Sunday at the normal time of 10.30am. This means the previous week (1 st November) will not be all age worship.

Saturday 21st November: Colton Christmas Fair. More details in separate item.

Sunday 30th November: Joint worship at Christ Church Halton at 10.30am. No worship at Colton that day.

The Old-Fashioned Act of Giving Thanks

It may just be a consequence of trying to keep up with our contemporary hyper pulsating lives, but it seems that a growing number of interpersonal vacuums exist today which previously had been filled by a simple, heartfelt "thank you".

Is it fearfulness of honest human connection which causes the withholding of such a small acknowledgement of gratitude? Do we shirk the good manners of extending a "thank you" to others, via email, written word, text or telephone because it confesses a flash of vulnerability to the mundane or significant thoughtfulness of others? Does issuing a "thank you" make us beholden to echo such thoughtfulness when we find ourselves in similar situations?

Saying "thank you" costs nothing but neglecting a "thank you" can slowly erode the well-being of our spiritual health.

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

Colton Methodist Church Christmas Fair

Saturday 21st November 10am to 1pm

Please make sure you have noted this event in your diaries as we could not run this without help or people turning up to support us on the day. As previously there will be a number of stalls from local businesses as well as other stalls including a raffle, Christmas & chocolate theme tombola, £1 stall, books/jigsaws and the ever-popular tearoom! And yes – we hope the train will be running! The uniformed groups will also be taking part with a number of stalls run by them.

We have started to plan for the event and if you would like help in any way please speak to us. There are a number of ways you can help including:

- ❖ Help to set up on the Friday or clear away on the Saturday
- ❖ Help on the day with stalls, refreshments or meet & greet
- ❖ Baking cakes/traybakes/scones
- ❖ Donating items for various stalls
- ❖ Help with distributing flyers & posters before the event

More information will appear in the weekly notices at Colton so keep an eye out for this! Thanks, in anticipation of your support!

- Elaine Preston and Kathryn Glasby.

Christ Church Guild – October Programme

6th October – Caribbean Reflections: After a recent holiday, Grenville Jensen offers his thoughts about a region he had always wanted to visit.

13th October – Capability Brown and Temple Newsam: Mike Turpin, the Sayings from the Sea speaker, returns with insight into the life of this famous landscaper and his local links

20th October – Franciscan Sisters: We learn about the lives of these nuns who seek to follow in the footsteps of Jesus with their mission to evangelise and to work with the needy.

27th October – The Great British Love of the Seaside: We welcome Lesley Newnham.

Christ Church Guild

It seems a while since I contributed to Contact. A lot has happened since then, we have lost loved ones, in fact as I write, it is only a day away from Margaret Webb's funeral. I thank God for the people He has put into my life and through the Guild I have met so many lovely people that I know I am truly blessed. The word that springs to mind is Fellowship; as we share so much in common. We are heading towards autumn – today is the Autumn equinox and we can look forward to all the beautiful colours that we can see all around us; although it doesn't feel like autumn as we are still enjoying very warm days.

October we are preparing for the Plant Sale, this takes so much effort from ones who are beginning to feel their years, myself included. If you are able to spare an hour or two, on either the Friday or Saturday, you would be very welcome to help in different ways. See Peter or Sheila or any of the Guild planning committee and they will guide you where help is most needed, it need not be onerous, and we meet some very nice people whose only contact with Christ Church is through the Plant Sale.

We have a change to the advertised programme: on 13th October Mike Turpin is coming along to tell us about Capability Brown and Temple Newsam. Shelley Joyce will be rescheduled for the next programme in the New Year. On 27th October we welcome Lesley Newnham who will be sharing "Our Great British love of the seaside". Do come along to any evening that you might find interesting, you will be glad that you did.

The Guild weekend on 24th and 25th October, will be a little different from other years, on the Saturday we have struggled finding a band/group to accompany us with a concert and the usual afternoon tea. This year we are just concentrating on the Sunday, Rev Diane Hicks will lead our morning service and we will be going to Garforth Golf Club for Sunday lunch. The warm hand of friendship is extended to all members of Christ Church; if you would like to join us, please inform Elizabeth Moll, Alison Roberts or Jenny Poulter or any member of the Guild planning team.

Tony Pickles, Co President with Peter Grubb

Christmas Shoe Boxes

Christ Church is again running its popular and valuable Christmas Shoe Box campaign. Covered shoe boxes will be ready during November for you to collect and fill with gifts. The filled boxes will be distributed from Meeting Point Café on Wednesday 9 December, to local families in need.

There is a label on each box where you can write whether the box is suitable for a boy or girl, and an approximate age. Please return your boxes to Sue or leave them at Christ Church. Thank you in advance for your support.

Christ Church Christmas Fair Saturday 5 December

Ahead of this year's fair, Jean would like donations for the tombola stall, and Roger would like contributions for his now legendary chocolate tombola please.



LEEDS NORTH & EAST METHODIST CIRCUIT

WORLD MISSIONS AND MISSION IN BRITAIN

are holding a CHARITY STALL in
CROSSGATES SHOPPING CENTRE

on FRIDAY, 30th OCTOBER 2026

We will be selling JIGSAW PUZZLES, BOOKS, STATIONERY,
CHRISTMAS ITEMS, GLASSWARE, BRIC-A-BRAC AND SOFT
TOYS

Please come along and support us if you can.

Congratulations from all at Colton to organist Mike Rodgers
on the birth of baby Felix who was born on 3rd September.

All the family are doing well.



Margaret Webb

Margaret was born in Oldbury in the Midlands in 1942 and she had an older brother, Colin. She didn't pass the 11-plus exam but spoke highly of the secondary modern school she attended. By her own determination she qualified for a place at Dudley Teacher Training College and her first teaching post was in the Midlands. She came to Leeds in 1965 to take up a post at Swarcliffe Junior School, then moved to the newly opened Halton Middle School in 1974. She later became deputy headteacher, then headteacher and stayed in that role after the reorganisation of schools in 1992, when it became Whitkirk Primary School. She retired in 1997. Thus, she was well-known in Halton.

It was after her retirement that she became more involved with the church here in Halton. She held various posts at various times and was particularly involved with the Guild. This led to her being on the Wesley Guild National Executive for several years and she held office both locally and nationally.

Through her Guild involvement she joined the Trustees of the Nigeria Health Care Project and visited Nigeria several times. She was made a Knight of John Wesley for her work there; a high honour indeed.

Margaret led a very full life. She travelled widely and was a member of several organisations – The National Geological Society, Soroptimists (a global volunteer organisation for women that works to educate, empower, and enable opportunities for women and girls), The Dickens Society, Whitkirk Book Group and The Progressive Christian Movement. She supported many charities and was an avid animal lover. She had quite a few hobbies down the years, including fencing, reading, walking, theatre, and more.

She will be remembered by many for her kindness and generosity, and I will remember her as the best friend I could ever have wished for.

- *Sheila Staveley*

Our Blessings by Pauline Hardman

What will we leave behind,
To count for our time on Earth?
Will we have passed something on,
That will show some goodly worth?
Will our smile stay in someone's heart,
Will a hug still wrap around?
When we've gone,
will the deeds we've done
Mean love and hope will be found?

Autumn by Pauline Hardman

The beginning of renewal
yet the colours red and gold,
the falling of the leaves
Yet the promise of
a fresh new start.
Take this time.....
just to be.
Contemplate its beauty,
be in the time,
knowing that love
and renewal is all around.

Message from Elizabeth Wynn

Elizabeth wishes to be remembered to all at Colton and Christ Church. Although unable to attend church now she is thrilled with Contact keeping her up to date and the Worship at Home created monthly by Revd Janet.

Flower Arranging

"We are blessed at Christ Church with a talented group of ladies who make sure we have lovely flowers in Church every week. If you would like to give it a try then please speak to Margaret Whincup or Yvonne Thornton who will be happy to guide you and show you how to do it.



You don't need special equipment just enthusiasm. I was not a flower arranger at all, but some of the ladies encouraged me to join the Barwick-in-Elmet Flower Club which meets on the second Wednesday of the month at Scholes Village Hall. Watching demonstrators produce wonderful arrangements and explain how to do it gave me the confidence to try it.

Come on, give it a go, it's great fun." – Yvonne

Forthcoming Services at Christ Church

4 October	Rev Robert Creamer Church Anniversary
11 October	Rev Janet Titterton
18 October	Rev Nicola Robinson Holy Communion
25 October	Rev Diane Hicks Guild Sunday
1 November	Rev Angela Hughes

Forthcoming Services at Colton

4 October	Mr Tom Ferguson Harvest Festival/Parade Service
11 October	Rev Joyce Nicholls Holy Communion
18 October	Deacon Judith Marshall
25 October	Mrs Anne Vautrey
1 November	Mr Paul Spencer

Please let Andy have any articles or contributions for the November edition of Contact by 7pm on **Tuesday 27 October**. Many thanks.

andybirkett76@gmail.com or 07952 861316.

A SPECIAL PLACE

*I always loved to travel,
To wander and explore;
To seek out new adventures,
Beyond my own back door.*



*Every day was different
With somewhere new to roam,
Inspired by stunning scenery,
Many miles from home.*

*Peaks that tower above me,
Lakes that sparkle below,
Ancient forests and pathways,
Ruins from so long ago.*

*Exotic food and flavours,
A change from home cuisine,
Absorbed in other cultures;
Keepsakes from where I've been.*

*Those days are far behind me now,
can't travel so far;
But those times bring special memories,
That make us who we are.*

*I've travelled halfway round the world,
By air, by land and sea,
But home is where my heart lies now;
Where I can be truly free.*



*Jackie Hickton
(shared by Joan)*



(See Exodus 34)

12-15-2014

THESE WILL NEED TO LAST A WHILE ...
YOU SHOULD PROBABLY JOT THEM DOWN ON
STONE

WHO TO CONTACT

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