CONTACT

CHRIST CHURCH HALTON
COLTON METHODIST CHURCH



November 2026

Nicola's Letter

Remembrance Day. On a day which causes us to look back in sadness, perhaps it is helpful to consider the act of remembering as being in opposition to 'dis-membering'. Where 'dismembering' means to take apart, 're-membering' can be a putting back together of sorts. It may be a putting back together of pictures of the past. But perhaps as we 're-member' with sadness the pictures and pains of wars long past, we can turn our concerns, our prayers, to a world which is crying out for peace. And I hope we can ask: how we can start to put back together those places, people, relationships damaged so severely by violence and warfare?

Some conflicts cause us to have strong feelings about which 'side' may be in the right, and which in the wrong. And yet during a war, on all sides: lives are lost, families are broken, young lives are damaged, our Earth is harmed. In times of conflict and violence, there can be no 'winners', only those who perhaps lose least.

Let us be a people who concentrate our prayer and prophetic voices on a call for peace, always peace. And may our actions model our words and prayers and embody peace. Each and every one of us. This was the teaching that Jesus lived and taught us to live.

We can live this out by supporting all the members in our communities, caring for our beautiful world, and speaking out against injustice.

In the words of the hymn writer, Fred Kaan:

Put peace into each other's hands
and like a treasure hold it;
protect it like a candle flame,
with tenderness enfold it.



Peace. *Nicola*

Leeds North and East Circuit Way Forward Strategy Group – Update

(Representatives from our churches, Circuit staff and Circuit Stewards.)

At our most recent meeting Revd Emily Young explained that a plan needs to be agreed and in place by the summer. With the stationing process commencing in early 2027 there is a currently budgeted deficit equivalent to 2.5 ministers.

Revd Rach Ward, Discipleship enabler and minister in the Leeds South and West Circuit gave a presentation then led our discussion on the risks and obstacles to change. Below is a summary and some feedback from the discussion points:

What spoke to us about RISK and JOURNEY?

• It's important to set off with a plan, but to be prepared for change.
• Resources that she didn't expect to be useful actually were.
• It's the people that matter not the buildings, ie as long as we can be together as the family of God, that's what matters.
• How the journey would go would depend on the support given.
• It's important to have resilience as adaptations might not be easy to accept.
• We will need provisions!
• We will need perseverance.
• Sometimes our attitude towards the change or journey is the obstacle.
• Sometimes what looks like opportunity isn't always good so might taking a considered path of small steps be better than a leap forward?
• What can be done before we move to the next step?
• How might the challenges speak to our Circuit about RISK?

Using the analogy of figures approaching the crossing of a river, we were asked where we feel we are in the process of change

• Some feel they are being pushed in and worried they may get out of their depth.
• Some came from a church that has closed and feel that change was not as bad as might have been originally perceived and It's how we engage that matters.

/continued…

• Some churches have already faced times of uncertainty and may now feel battered and bruised thus inhibiting their willingness to move any further unless they know it's the right direction.
• For everyone that is being encouraged into the river there may be others wanting help to get out!

How might we react to the challenges and risks?
• We feel we are being rerouted but we do not know the final destination.
• We need to look for sustainability and different ways forward and would this include closing churches?
• How do we know when to move on and when and where to ask for help?
• We should think of ourselves as a group of churches and not as 'my church'.
• How do we get people to join in and might we lose some on the way?
• Not everyone is aware or onboard or even willing to start to make the journey and time is running out!
• Churches might be just managing on their own but does this mean there is no time or energy for mission?
• We need to pull together and accept the facts of what cannot be changed.

How we can we help encourage the circuit to take the risks?
Discussions between churches and circuit, look at the viability of churches,
listening to everyone, being prepared to change, encourage others to engage but we need swift decisions HOPE, ENERGY and PRAYER

Rely on God
Invest in His calling
Step forward in faith
Keep going with him

If you would like to see the full transcript of the comments, please ask us.

Our next Way Forward meeting is in November when we meet with John Baker-Steevy, District Mission Enabler. Please continue to hold the process in your thoughts and prayers.

Helen Lappage, Elizabeth Moll, Kathryn Glasby, Elaine Preston

Colton Dates for Your Diary

Remembrance Sunday 8th November: all-age worship and parade service at Colton on Remembrance Sunday at the normal time of 10.30am.

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

Sunday 29th November: Advent Sunday joint worship at Christ Church Halton at 10.30am. No worship at Colton that day.

And because it's nearly Christmas (!) you might like to note:

Sunday 20th December 3pm: Carol Service at Colton Church (no worship at Colton in the morning).

Friday 25th December 9.30am: Christmas Day All Age worship at Colton Church.

News from Leeds North and East Circuit

The Methodist Circuit, to which we all belong, is going through a time of big changes. Decisions on how we use our finances and resources will soon have to be made, and it is likely that all our churches will be affected.

At Christ Church there will be a General Church Meeting held after morning worship on Sunday November 22nd at 12.00p.m. when Rev Janet and the church stewards will bring you all up to date on the discussions that are taking place, and give you the opportunity to share your thoughts, ideas and concerns.

The meeting will not be a long one, but we feel it is important that every member of the church family here at Christ Church is aware of changes that may be coming in the near future.

WOW Concert at Colton

Once again the talented Wakefield Orchestral Wind (WOW) entertained a full house with a history of musicals and some Last Night of the Proms favourites thrown in! Lots of toe tapping from the audience and even dancing in the aisles at one point! A huge thank you to everyone who attended and helped make it a great success. Funds raised amounted to £350 each to Colton Church and WOW from the ticket sales and a total of £197.80 for WYDAN from the raffle, “guess the name..” and cake sales.



Christ Church is once again running the popular and valuable Christmas Shoe Box Campaign in order to provide children with presents for Christmas.

Covered shoe boxes will be ready during November for you to collect and fill with gifts and there is a label on each box where you can write whether it is suitable for a boy or girl and an approximate age. Please return your boxes to Sue Guy or leave them at Christ Church. The boxes will be being distributed on Wednesday, 9th December at the Meeting Point Cafe in Harehills Lane to local families in need.

Thank you in advance for all your help and support with this Campaign.

Methodist Membership Session

Revd Janet will be holding an informal discussion on membership for anyone interested in becoming a member of the Methodist Church. This will be held on Thursday 3rd December at 7.30pm at Colton Methodist Church. Existing members who would like a refresher on being a member of the Methodist Church are also welcome. This session will lead to those who wish to become members being welcomed into the Methodist Church at the Covenant Service in January 2027.

For more information please contact Revd Janet.
Email: janet.titterton@yahoo.co.uk

"And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near." *Hebrews 10:24–25*

Christ Church Guild

The Guild continues to thrive albeit with fewer members and thus a lower average attendance. However, the warmth of the fellowship is still in evidence and that is important to us. Some sessions run really smoothly and the programme flows as printed and advertised. Unfortunately, some sessions have their hiccups and this is one of them. Tony Pickles mentioned last month about changes to the October programme. To date, November seems to be trouble free but in December we have a change of plan. Due to a clash with an event at Colton, Frank doesn't have enough friends available to bring us seasonal musical entertainment on 15th. However, we have Alana and Friends instead and are looking forward to that. As usual, you are welcome to come on that or any other evening which appeals to you. We are currently working on the programme for after Christmas, but for now, you'll find the November programme below.

Sheila Staveley

3rd November – Songs of Praise
Your chance to tell us your favourite hymns and the reason for your choice.
10th November – Our Dad
A nostalgic evening when Hilary Hetherington reminds us what life was like for a former generation
17th November – Journey Through Iran
A look at life in this troubled country with John Hollingworth
24th November – Funerals with a Difference
Ian Roberts gives insight into the role of a celebrant
1st December – How well do you know Leeds?
A fun picture quiz presented by Jane Ellis

Colton Methodist Church Christmas Fair Saturday 21st November 10am to 1pm

Just a reminder that if you can help in any way with Colton Christmas Fair **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
-

Thank you!

Elaine Preston and Kathryn Glasby.



Colton Harvest Weekend

A very big THANK YOU to all who helped make our Harvest weekend a real success and extremely enjoyable.

Thank you to all who contributed with donations of food, resulting in a car full of bags delivered to both the Foodbank and Meeting Point Café, which were gratefully received.



Thank you also for your monetary donations for All We Can via the coffee morning and Sunday worship, which amounted to the magnificent sum of £392.25.

CHRIST CHURCH HALTON

Chapel Street LS15 7RW

CHRISTMAS FAIR

SATURDAY 5TH DECEMBER 2026

10AM TO 1PM

Drinks and lunches will be served

Browse the stalls;
Tombola, Cakes, Plants, Paintings,
Chocolate Tombola and Fancy Glass,
Soft Toys & Knitted Goods.
Christmas Cards for Charity
and lots more.

Come and join us for a Holly Jolly event!

Just For A Laugh!

Every ten years, the monks in the monastery are allowed to break their vow of silence to speak two words. Ten years go by and it's one monk's first chance. He thinks for a second before saying, "Food bad." Ten years later, he says, "Bed hard." It's the big day, a decade later. He gives the head monk a long stare and says, "I quit." "I'm not surprised," the head monk says. "You've been complaining ever since you got here."

TOY SERVICE @ CHRIST CHURCH

Our Toy Service at Christ Church this year is on Sunday 6th December. Please bring new toys unwrapped to morning worship. It is hoped that your gifts will once again be distributed by the Salvation Army. Thank you for making Christmas for a deserving child.



ADVENT 2026 "TRAVELLING LIGHT"

A 4-part journey through Advent – helping us to shine as Lights for Christ.



Tuesdays at 2.30p.m.
At Colton Methodist Church

December 1st

December 8th

December 15th

December 22nd

All are welcome. Please bring a Bible (these can also be provided at the session if required).

The Big Dishcloth Knit

Thank you to everyone who contributed to Colton Church's project, by knitting, donating yarn or funds to buy materials, tying ribbon round the dishcloths or printing gift tags to go with them. Our latest count is 175 dishcloths! We aim to start handing these out at our Christmas Fair, with a tag on each giving details of our Christmas services, along with the message "Christmas wishes as you wash the dishes"!

Thinking of Others

It is by worrying that I strive to protect those I love from harm, to keep them safe. But this is not only futile, it is pompous and arrogant to think that by concerted fretting loved ones can be protected from experiencing the woes and tragedies which visit every life. Such worry weighs me down and tests my faith in a God who never turns his back on anyone in need. Perhaps such worries are misshapen prayers. For at heart I desire for my loved ones not merely to be spared the inevitable suffering which accompanies human life, not to be satisfied with the occasional moments of transient happiness, but to know and to savour joy.

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



CHRIST CHURCH CHRISTMAS FAIR
Saturday, 5th December

Once again we are holding a Christmas Fair at Christ Church. If anyone has any items to donate to the Tombola Stall Jean would be grateful to receive these and also Roger would appreciate contributions of chocolate for his now legendary Chocolate Tombola Stall.

It would also be appreciated if any "Cakes" could be brought on the Friday afternoon or Saturday morning for the Cake Stall, which is always another favourite.

Proceeds from all these stalls go to the Church Funds so we would appreciate your help with any items please.

THANK YOU!

"Am I really 80? I just don't think it's true.
I'm sure it's only 75 or maybe 62!
But cards and flowers and presents
All sent with so much love to say,
'A very Happy Birthday – you're 80 today'."

Thank you to all my friends and family. Yvonne

Toy Service at Colton Methodist Church Sunday 6th December 10.30am (All Age Worship & Parade)

At our Toy Service at Colton, led by Mrs Ann Johnson, we will again be collecting new toys and gifts suitable for children/young people. Unwrapped gifts please. These will be distributed via the Salvation Army and a representative will join our worship to receive the gifts on the day. Thank you in anticipation of your support.

Advent Gatherings



A
time for reflection
over three
weeks,
led by the Leeds
URC Partnership
Ministry Team

Tuesday 1, 8 and 15 December at 11:00am, Beeston Hill United Free Church, Malvern Road, LS11 8PD
Wednesday 2, 9 and 16 December at 2:00pm, Wigton Moor URC, 82 High Ash Drive, LS17 8RE
Wednesday 2, 9 and 16 December at 7:30pm, on Zoom, https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7019277749

For more information, email:
revnicola.robinson@gmail.com

LEEDS
UNITED REFORMED CHURCH
PARTNERSHIP

Forthcoming Services at Christ Church

1 November	Mr Alex Walker Joint with Stainbeck URC via Zoom
8 November	Rev Janet Titterton
15 November	Rev Nicola Robinson Holy Communion
22 November	Mr Tom Ferguson
29 November	Rev Janet Titterton Joint service with Colton, Garforth and Scholes
6 December	Rev Edward Lyne Toy Service

Forthcoming Services at Colton

1 November	Mr Paul Spencer
8 November	Rev Norma Davey All-Age Worship/Parade Service
15 November	Rev Janet Titterton Holy Communion
22 November	Mr Andy Birkett
29 November	*Worship at Christ Church –* *no service at Colton*
6 December	Mrs Ann Johnson All-Age, Parade and Toy Service

Is there a correct way to wear your Poppy?

Inspired by the poem “In Flanders Fields”, the tradition of wearing a poppy as a symbol of Remembrance began more than 100 years ago.
They are worn to remember those who have died in service, show gratitude for the dedication and sacrifice of the Armed Forces community, and reflect on the hope for a peaceful future.
Serving members of the Armed Forces follow specific dress regulations and regimental traditions when wearing a poppy on their uniform but in other circumstances there is no right or wrong way to wear your poppy and it is a matter of personal choice. On the left is most common but it is not prescribed and neither is the “leaf set to 11 O’clock” though this may be meaningful to many. By purchasing and wearing your poppy, you help the Royal British Legion provide support in ways tailored to the Armed Forces community’s unique needs and circumstances.

The Poppy

I am not a badge of honour,
I am not a racist smear,
I am not a fashion statement
to be warn but once a year.
I am not glorification
Of conflict or of war.
I am not a paper ornament
A token,
I am more.
I am a loving memory
Of a father or a son,
A permanent reminder
Of each and everyone.
I’m paper or enamel,
I’m old or shining new.
I’m a way of saying thank you
To every one of you.
I am a simple Poppy,
A reminder to you all,
That courage, faith and honour
Will stand where heroes fall. – *Anon*



Christ Church

MESSY CHURCH

We'd love you to join us on Saturday 14th November, between 2 and 4pm for this month's Messy Church – something for everyone, whether you're 1 or 100!

Fun, crafts, stories, singing, worship, refreshments and friendship.

All children must be accompanied by an adult throughout. Pay as you feel able, with a suggested donation of £1 per child.

The combined December/January edition of Contact will be published on 29 November. Please let Andy have any articles or contributions for next month's issue by 7pm on Tuesday 24 November. Many thanks.
andybirkett76@gmail.com or 07952 861316.

WHO TO CONTACT

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Ministers

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