

CONTACT

CHRIST CHURCH HALTON
COLTON METHODIST CHURCH

November 2025



Janet's Letter

Remember, remember the 5th of November. November is the month of remembering. All Saints Day and All Souls Day are quickly followed by Remembrance Sunday. We hold our annual Memorial services to spend some time remembering those we have loved and lost.

To remember is to bring something out of the storage unit of our mind into the business part – like bringing out an old teapot from the back of the cupboard to use it once again. Doing this can stir up all kinds of emotions. Our memories can bring smiles, laughter and tears, or guilt and regret; we can use our memories of people and places in a negative way or a positive way.

Our memories can lead us to become nostalgic, to long for the Good Old Days to come again, or to accept that those days, good as they were, are gone. That realisation may encourage us to take action, to make a positive difference and to do something for the future.

Memories of a rubbish holiday might make us determined not to go there again! Memories of a breakdown in a relationship might make us determined to behave differently in future. Memories of one we have loved might help us to decide to be more like them, to reflect all that we learned from them in our own lives.

Remembrance is at the heart of our Christian life – as we remember Jesus in our Communion bread and the wine. As we offer our own memories before God each November, God challenges us to learn from them and to look with hope towards the future.

To remember is not simply a passive moment of recollection – but an invitation to go forward in the company of the Lord who never forgets us, but has our names written on the palm of His mighty hand. May God richly bless you in this season of remembering.

With my love and prayers

Rev Janet

ART WORKSHOPS

IN COLTON!



Have you always wanted to try your hand
at being artistic?

Well now's your chance!

At Justine's workshops you will learn different skills and techniques using a range of media to produce unique and stunning pieces of art.

All materials and refreshments are included! (price to be confirmed)

Get together with friends and meet new ones at Colton Methodist Church on Thursdays 1pm-3pm.

No previous Art experience is required just a willingness to experiment, relax and have fun!

If you are interested, require more information or to book a place, please contact Justine on 07880977671



The Methodist Church's Advent & Christmas Theme

"Gifted" is the Methodist Church's open invitation, speaking the good news to people that they matter. That they are

Beloved. Created with infinite care. A gift to the world, just as they are.

We'll be using resources from the Methodist Church throughout Advent and Christmas, based on this theme, including the Advent Liturgy used across the churches in our section.

At Colton we'd like to make some gift tags to give away, to let people in our community know that they are a gift from God, made with deep love and how much they are appreciated. They can then hang the tag on a Christmas tree or use it as a bookmark.

If you'd like to help with this please speak to Kathryn or Elaine. Materials will be provided.

@ the heart of the Colton Community

Christmas Fair

Sat 22nd November @ 10am - 1pm

Colton Methodist Church

Most stalls cash only
50p entry (children free)

In aid of Church funds

Live music
Snowy train scene
Hand made crafts
Tabletop games
Home made cakes
Stalls, Raffle & Tombola
Tea & coffee

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.

community Reverse (With a twist) Advent Calendar

IT'S BACK!!

The hugely successful Community 'Reverse' Advent Calendar returns for the fourth year running. Throughout the year, Colton Church continues to collect for St Cyprian's Foodbank & Meeting Point, but in the run up to Christmas, we do something special - instead of receiving something from an advent calendar (chocolate!) we give something (donation or prayer).

Suggested donations of small items are made for each day leading up to Christmas & include a mix of treats, items in short supply at the Foodbank & basic toiletries because these are often overlooked as donations. You might like to give an item on the day that you visit the church building, give one item each week or give one item for Advent. Alternatively, or additionally, you might wish to give your prayers for those who will receive the donations.



(With a twist)

We want to spread the Christmas cheer as far & wide as we can, so we're starting our Reverse Advent Calendar early (November 22nd) to make sure that all the items can be shared out to the people who need them before Christmas.

This is a community project & all donations, big or small, however they are given, will be gratefully received & will make a difference this Christmas.

29th Nov – small selection box

30th Nov – toothpaste

1st Dec – hot chocolate

2nd Dec – toothbrush

3rd Dec – biscuits

4th Dec – deodorant

5th Dec – dried fruit or nuts

6th Dec – sanitary products

7th Dec – shower gel

8th Dec – box of mince pies

9th Dec – tinned soup or vegetables

10th Dec – tea or coffee

11th Dec – wet wipes/face wipes

12th Dec – tinned ready meal

13th Dec – shaving gel

14th Dec – small microwave pudding

15th Dec – box of tissues

16th Dec – children's chocolate

17th Dec – small Christmas pudding

18th Dec – jam or marmalade

19th Dec – toilet roll

20th Dec – small chocolate bar

21st Dec – soap



@ the heart of the Colton Community

Colton Methodist Church Christmas Fair

Saturday 22nd November 10am to 1pm

Just a reminder that if you would like help in any way with this year's Christmas Fair at Colton **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 our £1 stall, Christmas theme/chocolate tombola and raffle (for this event or future events)
- ❖ Donating books or jigsaws (all pieces present please!) but please hold on to these until nearer the time as storage space is limited!
- ❖ Help with distributing flyers & posters before the event

Thanks, in anticipation of your support!

Elaine Preston and Kathryn Glasby.



WOW Concert @ Colton

Thank you to all who helped make the WOW Concert at Colton such a wonderful success, from setting up, baking cakes and helping with the washing up and clearing away afterwards.

It was a wonderful afternoon, with excellent musicians, mediocre singing (although everyone did try!) and a grand finale.



Thank you to all who attended. The proceeds from the raffle, "guess the name of the saxophone", and sale of cakes which amounted to £274.35 will be sent to the MND Association.

People the Light Shines Through

On 1st November, many churches celebrate All Saints Day. Perhaps we don't do this very often in the URC, but I think it's a really important one to mark. Why? Because saints are all around us, in our lives and our world.

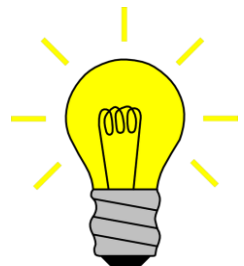
So, what is a saint? In the past I used to think that saints were individuals who were perfect in every way and rather distant from our everyday lives. Now, my favourite description of a saint comes from a story about a little girl. She was on a school trip to a nearby church. When she was looking at the stained-glass windows depicting different saints, she exclaimed: "Now I know what a saint is! A saint is a person the light shines through!"

I wonder, can we recognise - and gave thanks for - all those people in our lives who have been saints to us. All those individuals who have let the light of God's love shine through - and transformed our lives as a result? As 1 John 4:12 beautifully expresses: "No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us, and God's love is perfected in us."

When a loved one dies, we deeply grieve their loss. And yet, their light, their legacy of love through words and actions doesn't disappear, it continues to be with us and continues to shape us. I also believe that we can all be living saints: letting the light shine through us by supporting each other, embracing diversity and creating a world where all are safe and loved.

All Saints for yesterday, today and tomorrow.

*In peace,
Nicola*



The Washing of Feet

A small piece I heard on the radio keeps haunting me. A woman was interviewed whose work, whose mission is the washing, massaging and anointing the feet of the homeless, the street people. She was rather matter of fact about her calling, seeking no special attention or acclaim. The interviewer asked if she ever encountered a pair of feet she could not treat. She answered that once washed, there have been no feet to which she could not attend. One of her regular clients was asked what he felt about her ministrations. He responded, "My God, it feels so good.



When she's done, I am glad to be alive again". Now I just cannot shake the feeling that this woman, whether she is aware of it or not, embodies the finest instincts of the human heart. The image of her unwrapping the dirty, smelly, perhaps gnarled, feet of those our society neglects as dispensable, sitting with a basin of warm water, soft towels, soothing lotions, antibiotic creams and lavishing her care on the toes and soles of some pretty rough characters, revives my hope in the kind of simple salvation to be found in practical acts of charity. I am humbled by her largeness of heart.

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

The church council met to discuss the pastor's compensation package for the coming year. After the meeting the chair of council told the pastor: "We are very sorry, Pastor, but we decided that we cannot give you a raise next year."

"But you must give me a raise," said the pastor. "I am but a poor preacher!"

"I know," the council chair said. "We hear you every Sunday."

Christ Church Halton Guild

October was a very busy month for the Guild. The evening went well with an average attendance of over 30. The Autumn Plant Sale (always dependant on fine weather) went well, and although cold, remained dry with good sales. On Saturday we joined forces with a Table-Top Sale using the whole of the ground floor of the Church which was full of tables and did a brisk sale in refreshments. The following week we had a concert by The Dalehurst Trio (flute, violin and piano) which was equally successful with well-known tunes professionally executed and a compere with a good sense of humour, to which the audience responded well. This was followed by a traditional afternoon tea which was served with all the trimmings!

The next day was Guild Sunday, led by the Revd. Norma Davey which focussed on the life of the Halton Guild. The weekend concluded with a dinner for members at the Garforth Golf Club which was enjoyed by all – good food in good surroundings and of course good company.

Many people have worked hard to make a success of these activities which have been both pleasant and uplifting, but a special mention must be made of our Secretary, Sheila Staveley, who has been overseeing the events while preparing to make a very protracted house move. Sheila, we thank you all you do for the Guild and Church and send you our best wishes as you move into your new home.

These and earlier events have allowed the Guild to support the work and witness of Christ Church with these donations to the Church Treasurer:

April: Donation £1000.00

April: Concert: £440.00

May: Plant sale: £2626.19

October: Plant Sale: £891.71

October: Concert: £345.00

Total: 5302.90

Our planned programme of activities for November can be found in the centre pages of this month's Contact – all are welcome.

- Peter Grubb (co-President with Tony Pickles)

FAMILY JAM (JESUS AND ME)

Our final **Family JAM** session for 2025 will be held at Colton Methodist Church on **Sunday 16th November** from 4pm to 6pm, led by Revd Janet.

If you've not already tried it why not come along! It's an informal time of gathering, hearing a Bible story, responding using craft, creativity & conversation, a short time of prayer &

song, then eating a meal together. This is especially suitable for families with children aged 4-12, but everyone is most welcome, whether you have children in your family or not.

To find out more, or to let us know you are attending, contact Kathryn or Amanda at Colton Church, email info.coltonchurch@gmx.co.uk, or message our Facebook page "Colton Methodist Church, Leeds".

A Candle of Peace A poem for Remembrance Sunday

Light a candle of peace for all nations
And watch as it steadily burns.
Remember the brave fallen heroes –
Those who will never return.

In the quietness, pray for all families,
Wherever they are in the world,
Whose lives have been scarred by
violence and pain,
As the banners of battle unfurled.

Light a candle of peace for all races,
All cultures and creeds of mankind,
Ask God to touch every heart with
his love
So, in days to come, we will find

Peace for the whole world over,
No longer a dream or a prayer,
But something to last to the end of
all time,
For the great heart of God will be
there.

By Marian Cleworth
First published in People's Friend,
November 2021



Harvest Weekend at Colton

Thank you to everyone who braved the remains of Storm Amy to support our Harvest Coffee Morning and to all who joined our Harvest Festival Service on the Sunday and helped eat up the remaining cake!



Monetary donations from the weekend's events totalled £457.80 to be sent to All We Can. Several bags full of packet and tinned items were collected and shared between Meeting Point Café and the Leeds South and East Foodbank, along with some fresh fruit and veg, and all items were gratefully received. Thank you to Keith & Sylvia for safely delivering these for us. Well done everyone!



CHRIST CHURCH CHRISTMAS SHOE-BOXES

There are now covered Shoe Boxes available at church for people to take. The boxes have a label for either a boy or girl and an age group. Anything suitable for the age group can be included. The boxes will be being given out by Deacon Adelha from Meeting Point on Wednesday, 10th December at 11.00am when a group from Concordia will be singing carols there. The boxes are going to needy families in East Leeds.

(More information can be obtained from Sue Guy).

Colton Birthday Wishes

Belated birthday wishes to all who celebrated their special days in September and October. Happy birthday to all celebrating in November. Special mention to Chris Pickles who will be 90 years young on 5th November. Happy days to all.

Q: How many people went on the Ark before Noah?

A: Three! Because it is written “And Noah went forth onto the Ark!”

COLTON DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Remembrance Sunday 9th November: All Age Worship and Parade Service for Remembrance Sunday at 10.30am, joining in the National Act of Remembrance at 11am. This means the previous week (2nd November) will not be all age worship and Junior Church will meet at their usual time that day.

Sunday 16th November: Family JAM at 4pm. We've changed from the usual 4th Sunday for November due to the Circuit Service on 23rd.

Saturday 22nd November: Colton Christmas Fair. More details in separate item.

Sunday 23rd November: Circuit Service at 4pm with the theme “Our Church’s Future Story”. Venue to be announced.

Sunday 30th November: Joint worship at Christ Church Halton at 10.30am. Junior Church will also meet at Christ Church at the same time, when our children and young people can share time together. No worship at Colton that day.

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

Sunday 21st December 3pm: Carol Service at Colton Church (no worship at Colton in the morning).

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

Toy Service at Colton Methodist Church
Sunday 7th December 10.30am
(All Age Worship & Parade)

At our Toy Service at Colton, led by our own Junior Church, we will again be collecting new toys and gifts suitable for children/young people aged 8+, such as crafting/construction kits or something a teenager might appreciate. Unwrapped gifts please. These will be distributed via the Salvation Army. Thank you in anticipation of your support.



Christ Church
Christmas Fair

Saturday 6th December
10am – 1pm

If anyone has any items that can be donated for the Tombola Stall, please pass them to Jean Hopkinson please. Also, if you have anything for the Chocolate Tombola Stall, please pass your chocolate goodies to Sue Guy.

We are also asking for donations for the cake stall to be brought to church either on the day before the Fair or on the day itself.

Of course, everyone should keep the date in their diary:

Christmas gifts and decorations
Tombola
Chocolate Tombola
Book Stall
Bric-a-Brac
Jigsaws
Cake stall
...and many more!

We also have our café serving drinks and snacks –
everybody welcome!

Forthcoming Services at Christ Church

2 November	Rev Nicola Robinson Holy Communion
9 November	Mr Ted Britton
16 November	Mr Alex Walker
23 November	Rev Timothy Nicholls
30 November	Rev Janet Titterton (combined service with Colton, Cross Gates and Garforth)
7 December	Mr Tom Ferguson

Christ Church Guild **November Programme**

4th - Welcome to our Guild, Janet.

Rev'd Janet Titterton introduces herself to us.

11th - Life in the RAF Regiment.

Pete Spedding comes to us to recount his father's experiences during World War 2.

18th - The Last Gasp Players Rise Again!

Building on the success of last year's presentation, another dramatic offering from our own thespians

25th - Prison Chaplaincy

Chris White talks about his work in HMP Leeds.

Forthcoming Services at Colton

2 November	Mrs Mary Patchett
9 November	Rev Janet Titterton All-Age/Parade Service
16 November	Rev Steven Jones Holy Communion
23 November	Mr Tom Ferguson
30 November	Rev Janet Titterton, at Christ Church, no service at Colton
7 December	All-Age Parade and Toy Service Led by Colton Junior Church

Join Us For Worship!

"Let us be concerned for one another, to help one another to show love and to do good. Let us not give up the habit of meeting together, as some are doing. Instead, let us encourage one another all the more

Hebrews 10:24-25a

The next edition of Contact, *covering December and January*, will be published on 7 December. Please let Andy have any articles or contributions for next month's issue by 7pm on Tuesday 2 December. Many thanks.

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Thanks to Jason Trommetter

09-03-2002

MOSES REFUSES TO SERVE IN PHARAOH'S COURT

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