

CONTACT

CHRIST CHURCH HALTON
COLTON METHODIST CHURCH



June 2025

Pentecost

“I will pour out my Spirit on all people”

The Perfect Father

(Taken from Our Daily Bread)

“Standing in the crowded store aisle, I struggled to find the perfect Father’s Day card.

Although we had reconciled after years of a strained connection, I had never felt close to my dad.

The woman next to me groaned and shoved the card she’d been reading back into the display. “Why can’t they make cards for people who don’t have good relationships with their fathers, but are trying to do the right thing?” She stormed off before I could respond, so I prayed for her. Thanking God for affirming only He could be a perfect Father, I asked Him to strengthen my relationship with my dad.

I long for deeper intimacy with my heavenly Father too. I want David’s confidence in God’s constant presence, power, and protection (Psalm 27:1–6). When David cried out for help, he expected God’s answers (vv. 7–9). Though earthly parents could reject, abandon, or neglect their children, David declared God’s unconditional acceptance (v. 10). He lived with assurance in the Lord’s goodness (vv. 11–13). Like most of us, David sometimes struggled, but the Holy Spirit helped him persevere in trust and dependence on the Lord (v. 14).

We will encounter difficult relationships on this side of eternity. But even when people fall short, fail us, or hurt us, we’re still completely loved and protected by the only Perfect Father. God—the Perfect Father—will never let us down, leave us, or stop loving us.”

A Prayer For Fathers’ Day

Loving God, as a father feeds, nurtures and sustains his children, so you feed us with the rich food of your heavenly banquet. Help us who have tasted your goodness to grow in grace within the household of faith. through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen



Worship on Sunday 29th June

You may recall that last year the Methodist Conference was held in Leeds. Some of us were fortunate enough to get tickets to attend Conference Worship on the Sunday at the Royal Armouries. Others worshipped at Cross Gates Methodist Church where the Conference Worship was broadcast live on the big screen!

This year the Conference is being held in Telford and once again we have the opportunity to share in Conference worship by joining other churches at Cross Gates Methodist Church. We won't be having worship at Colton Church that day and invite you instead to worship at Cross Gates at 10.30am.

You can find out more about the Conference including the link to watch worship from home if you prefer, by going to:

<https://www.methodist.org.uk/about/structure-and-governance/the-methodist-conference/conference-2025/>

“A Rose” by Pauline Hardman



A summer rose
in splendid bloom
this sweet surprise
came a little soon.
I worried that the nights were cold
but the rose stood proud,
brave and bold.
I'm here it says,
to bring you hope,
the peachy petals of velvet spoke.
Thorns and tangled brier have tried
to beat the rose
and see the sky,
But the symbol of love
just carried on
reaching out, staying strong.
As we journey through
the seasons of life
we grow and blossom
through the love and the light.



Remembering John Bacon

“On behalf of the family, I would like to thank Rev Nicola, stewards, and everyone at Christ Church who helped to make the thanksgiving service for John so memorable. As a family, we wish to remember John’s long life with joy and love.

John had many hobbies and he enjoyed all kinds of music, singing, gardening, rambling, jogging, travelling to many different countries, and of course family duties and helping in church. Fortunately by the time I knew John, he had stopped trainspotting but he never lost his love for steam trains.

John was seen as a quiet man who didn’t say a lot when amongst groups of people – he wasn’t one for small talk. However he was an intelligent man who was widely read, very interested in theology, and always willing to share his ideas. He had strong opinions on most things, and his views weren’t always appreciated. He cared about his family, the church, and the wider world, thought things out for himself and didn’t change his mind to fit in with other people.

His later years, because of illness, were challenging, but fortunately John left us with so many memories. He will never be forgotten. A life well lived.”

- *Dorothy Bacon*



Food Bank

A gentle reminder – we collect for the food bank and Meeting Point all year round at Colton Church and all donations are gratefully received.

As a Church during the month of July all contributions donated will be going to Meeting Point Cafe. If you find you are able to contribute, any items the following would ideal: tomato ketchup, tins of tomatoes, tins of baked beans, brown sauce, toilet rolls, alternatively anything that could be put into an emergency pack for anyone in dire need. Thank you.

New Back Door & Window at Colton Church

"It's in, it's new and usable!! After a long wait, much planning, help from the District and the wonderful team at Renovate we got there. There is now a lintel above the door, and the cross, with new more secure hooks, fills the window beautifully. Thank you all for your patience.

A big THANK YOU to Lee and the Renovate team - they have been wonderful from start to finish of this project, organising surveyors and detailed drawings required by Leeds Planning Dept, measuring and remeasuring and making sure of requirements. Sara in the office has been wonderful and so patient with all of my queries and concerns. The workforce worked tirelessly over the past few weeks. The original glass window was, I have been informed particularly hazardous to remove. As a Church we try to use local trades people and Renovate is a local firm. Based at The Old Police Station on York Road (tel 0113 808 2899, website www.renovateleeds.co.uk), they are excellent." - *Elaine Preston*

And a **huge thank you** to Elaine for all her hard work and perseverance dealing with this project!

Colton Dates for your diary

- Sunday 22nd June 4pm: Family JAM
- Sunday 29th June: Joint worship at Cross Gates at 10.30am
- Saturday 5th July: Church Anniversary event
- Sunday 6th July: Church Anniversary all age worship (see separate item about the above weekend)
- Monday 7th July 7.30pm: Church Council Meeting at church.

Well Done Kerrie!

Dorothy Davies has proudly sends us the following message:

"CONGRATULATIONS to Dr Kerrie Davies, on being awarded an MBE for service to Healthcare Science. During Covid, Kerrie worked closely with the UK Health Security Agency Technologies Validation Group, ensuring that the Tester kits did what they were supposed to do. If a strip said you had Covid then you did. Kerrie continues her work for us as West Yorkshire's Scientific Advisor to the Chief Scientific Officer, as well as working with LHT and Leeds University Research Group. Well done Kerrie!"



A Big Thank You To Joyce Rudge

“Way back in 2010 Halton Lunch Club became Christ Church Luncheon Club when Barbara from the WRVS retired and Barrie and Joyce took over running the Lunch Club.

Joyce has recently stepped down from her weekly duties with us and we wanted to say a very big thank you for all the hard work and dedication she has given during the last 15 years. She kept in touch with guests during the Covid lockdown and gave out Contact to everyone each month.

We miss her standing up to her elbows in soap suds doing the washing up but she still managed to make us a fabulous apple pie for our pudding.

Thank you again Joyce, we do really appreciate all you do and have done for the Lunch Club over the many years”. From Audrey, Joan, Alison, Yvonne and Margaret.

Methodist Women in Britain – Summer Afternoon Event

On Friday July 4th at 2pm, join speaker Rev Leonora Wassell, co-chair of Methodist Women in Britain for this afternoon tea event at St Paul’s Methodist Church, Wakefield Road, Dalton, Huddersfield HD5 8DE. Leonora will share her travels and her experiences, as she speaks on the theme of “the status of women, going forward”. For catering purposes please contact Jean Delaney by June 29th if you plan to attend. You can pay in cash on the day, and the cost is £7.50.



Methodist Women
in Britain

Email: jn.delaney@btopenworld.com
Telephone: 01484 651960

Colton Church Anniversary Weekend including **Revd Becki's final service at Colton**

Saturday 5th July 1pm to 4pm

Come and see a display of knitted bible figures depicting scenes from the life of Jesus and enjoy refreshments in our tearoom.

Proceeds in aid of the Church Repair and Renew Fund.

If you can help with baking or help with set up or on the day please let Kathryn or Elaine know.

Sunday 6th July 10.30am

All Age Worship, Parade Service and Holy Communion, to mark our Church Anniversary and Revd Becki's final service at Colton before she leaves the Circuit. We'd love to continue sharing a time of fellowship after the service and invite you to stay for a "bring and share" lunch (just bring a contribution of food to share!).

A nursery teacher was walking around her classroom while her students drew pictures. One little girl was scribbling so intently that the teacher asked what she was drawing. The little girl replied, "I'm drawing a picture of Jesus." The teacher said, "Oh honey, nobody really knows for sure what Jesus looked like." The little girl, without missing a beat, responded, "They will in a minute."

By the time Bobby arrived, the football game had already started. "Why are you so late?" asked his friend. "I couldn't decide between going to church and going to the football game. So I tossed a coin," said Bobby. "But that shouldn't have taken too long." said the friend. "Well, I had to toss it 35 times."

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

MESSY CHURCH @ CHRIST CHURCH

Come and join us on Saturday 14 June for an afternoon packed with the usual fun and games. We'll be thinking about both Pentecost and Fathers' Day. All ages are welcome to take part in our crafts, games, worship, singing, dancing and refreshments.

Messy Church takes place from 2-4pm – all children must be accompanied by an adult. Pay as you feel able, with a suggested donation of £1 per child. If you're planning to come, please let us know via Facebook, or by contacting Helen (details on the back page of Contact)

Toilet Twinning at Colton

Thanks to a superb effort from all at Colton during Lent, including the Scout Group (and following a last-minute emptying of pockets for a bit more change!) we are pleased to announce we raised £360 for the Toilet Twinning Project. Thanks to all those who saved a penny when they spent a penny, we can twin with 6 toilets around the world. We have chosen to support a toilet in Nepal, Pakistan, Nigeria, South Sudan, Uganda and Zimbabwe. Look out for the twinning certificates appearing on the walls of the toilets at Colton Church!

You can find out more information about how the money we raised is put to good use, at <https://toilettwinning.org/>

Thank you also for your donations totalling £132, to the World Mission Fund.

Thoughts for June

Opportunity dances with those who are already on the dance floor.

Pessimists see the difficulty in every opportunity but optimists do better- they see the opportunity in every difficulty.

Colton Eco Church



We're spoilt for choice for Eco activities to get involved with in June! Here are just a couple to start us all off.

30 Days Wild - This is the Wildlife Trusts' annual challenge event, where they ask us to take on wild activities throughout June.

From planting wildflowers for bees, to listening to bird song, there are endless ways to spend your wild month! Whether you complete an activity a day, or a couple in a week, you'll be connecting with wildlife, boosting your well-being and making a positive impact on the planet at the same time. You can sign up to the website to receive **FREE** goodies in the post and daily emails full of fascinating facts and inspiring activities to help you achieve your wild challenge.

- www.wildlifetrusts.org/30dayswild

Great Big Green Week 7th – 15th June 2025 - How about joining in with the UK's biggest celebration of community action to tackle climate change and protect nature?

This year's theme is about making a swap to work towards a greener future. Everyday people across the UK make swaps in their lives for a better tomorrow. This is an opportunity to showcase or highlight the swaps we have made or are making. A swap can be any action you've taken towards tackling climate change or protecting nature and can be swaps you've made together with others in your community, your family, or as an individual – it's about every individual swap adding up to make a big difference. You can find ideas and resources by visiting The Great Big Green Week website.

- www.greatbiggreenweek.com/resources

Or to make things even easier, you'll find a list of ideas and activities on the Colton Eco Church notice board during June. **Great Big Green Week** is organised each year by The Climate Coalition, the UK's largest group of people dedicated to climate action. The Climate Coalition works in partnership with a number of organisations including RSPB, WWF, Save the Children and the National Trust.

PS. If you took part in No Mow May, why not continue this by flowing into **Let It Bloom June!**?

- *Colton Eco Church team.*

Christ Church Guild

After a very successful Guild session ending at Easter with our Holy Week Service, we're now well into our summer events, which began with the Guild Concert and afternoon tea in April. We were entertained excellently by The Wendell Singers, followed by a bounteous afternoon tea, and I have to say the event was enjoyed by all who attended. Thanks must go to all who helped in any way selling tickets, baking, shopping, preparing food, moving furniture in the church, serving, washing up and clearing away afterwards.

Closely following this event was of course our famous Spring Plant Sale on 8th, 9th, and 10th of May. The weather was kind – Thursday may have been dull and cool, but Friday and Saturday proved hot and sunny, which meant that there was some rushing around with watering cans to keep everything blooming. The bacon sandwiches on Friday flew out of the kitchen and coffee and cakes were very popular as usual. The whole event raised a wonderful £2,625 for Church funds. Very well done to all who came and helped and shopped and made the event such a success once more.

“What's next?” I hear you ask. Two coffee afternoons will be held the first on Tuesday 8th July hosted by Joyce Rudge and the second on Wednesday 13th August at Christ Church. Offerings of cakes and help will be gratefully accepted for both. Watch out for further details about these in the church notices. We will again be having a raffle and a mystery parcel stall at the Christ Church Summer Fair on 7th June.

We're already looking forward to the forthcoming autumn and winter session of Guild which begins on Tuesday 9th September at 7.30pm. Perhaps we'll see you there.

- *Margaret Whincup*

Sunday Stewards at Colton

Following discussion at our March Annual General Church Meeting we are trialling the role of “Sunday Stewards” at Colton, which will cover some, but not all, of the duties normally undertaken by the role of Church Steward. The aim of this new role is to:

- Attract additional volunteers specifically to facilitate Sunday worship.
- Spread the workload of those undertaking the role of church steward, which in addition to facilitating Sunday worship carries responsibility for governance and leadership of the church

Dorothy and Jenny have volunteered to step into this role, so alongside the existing Church Stewards (Elaine, Kathryn and Sijmen) you will start to see them as the “steward on duty” on a Sunday morning. We are grateful to them for stepping forward as part of this new initiative.

A report will be taken to the July Church Council about this new role and, once agreed that this is the way forward, we will give further details to help recruit additional volunteers.



Plant Sale at Colton

A big THANK YOU to everyone who helped in any way on Friday and Saturday to create another successful Colton plant sale. It was a sell out! More plants next year!

We could not have done it without your help: Friday putting out tables, transferring plants when delivered, and setting up the kitchen and refreshments area plus all the wonderful baking, the table was heaving with 'goodies'. Then on Saturday staffing the tables, handling cash, serving refreshments, washing up, cash counting and work behind the scenes. Our grateful thanks also go to some new volunteers joining the team, we hope you enjoyed being with us. Thanks must also go to Alison, Jenny and David for all their hard work in organising and ordering prior to the event. The total raised on the day was £1,530.82 plus a donation of £10 made on the 18th May, therefore a grand total of £1,540.82 for the Repair and Renew Fund.

Birthday News!

Happy birthday to all who celebrate their birthdays in June. And a message from Elaine: “Thanks to all at Colton for the lovely surprise birthday cake and all the wonderful cards reminding me of my BIG birthday. The rendition of 'Happy Birthday' sung in tune was spectacular. Thank you.”

Elysium

“It is only a few days before the summer solstice. Most of today offered cool winds and persistent showers. Yet the evening shifted the heavy clouds allowing the full-bodied sun to saturate the close of day with glorious and beckoning light. It felt a sin against self and all that is due reverence not to walk out into the lush goodness of it all after a soggy day of work in my walled garden nursery. I succumbed, put aside the remaining tasks on my To Do List and set out into the surrounding hills with my fastidious Labrador companion, Bryher.

The hill sheep seemed illuminated by the late day's sunlight. Birds rhapsodized in a symphony of gladsome song. I strode into the thick beauty called to a banquet of joyful harmony. There was nothing I needed or yearned for outside of the simple bliss of joining all that was alive and being celebrated around me.

As I moved along the edge of a prominent hill, a stray cloud, a remnant of the day's earlier heavy sky, shielded me in shadow from the soothing balm of the setting sun. From beyond this cloud soft yet brilliant light fell in focus upon distant fields a few miles from where I stood entranced. This flood of light seemed to be glowing up from within the landscape itself. Wrapped in such thankful awe, I beheld what seemed the source of all tranquillity and harmony. For I was granted the blessed privilege of looking out onto what could only be described as the Promised Land.”

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

A message from Revd Janet Titterton Minister for Christ Church Halton, Colton, Crossgates, Garforth and Scholes Churches from September 2025

Greetings to you all! I'm so looking forward to moving to Leeds North and East and getting to know you all. Let me tell you a little about myself.



I'm Janet, I am moving to Leeds North and East in an early, unexpected move from Peterborough. Moving with me is my husband of 42 years, Barry, who you will get to know as he often gets involved in my churches with me. We also bring our cocker spaniel Wesley, who is very gentle and friendly, but please do let us know if you'd rather not be greeted by him!

We have two adult sons, James and Jonathan, who both live in the Leeds area with their respective partners. It will be good to be able to spend some family time with them all after living miles apart for 10 years.

As you get to know me you will discover that I love to preach, teach and sing – for me, hymns are such an important part of worship. I'm willing to have a go at most things in church life, to learn new things as well as enjoying and treasuring the things that we love.

Outside of work I love football, having followed Newcastle United all my life, and music – brass bands and Gilbert and Sullivan are great favourites. I watch too much TV, and drink too much tea. If I am coming to visit please get the kettle on!

Most of all, I'm looking forward to finding out what God is doing in your church and community, and joining in. Praying God's blessing on you all as we prepare to "serve the present age" - working together to reveal the Kingdom just where God has placed us.

With my love,
Revd Janet

A reminder that the Circuit Welcome Service for Revd Janet, along with Revd Nigel Wright and Revd Emily Young, will be held on Sunday 31st August at 2.30pm at Lidgett Park Methodist Church.

Forthcoming Services at Christ Church

1 June	10.30am	Rev Nicola Robinson Holy Communion
	4.00pm	Memorial Service
8 June		Rev Mark Stennett
15 June		Rev Edward Sakwe
22 June		Rev Steven Jones
29 June		Christ Church Worship Team
6 July		Rev Angela Hughes

"Contact" Deadline

Please let Andy have any articles or contributions for next month's **combined July & August** Contact by 7pm on Tuesday 1 July. Many thanks.

andybirkett76@gmail.com
or 07952 861316.

"Seeds of love" by Pauline Hardman

From the very first seed
when it all began,
to the last footprint in the earth
in nature's plan,
the one thing that matters
is love.
For everything in between,
the me and the you,
everything that happens,
everything we do,
the one thing that matters
is love.

Forthcoming Services at Colton

1 June	All-age worship (Local arrangement)
8 June	Rev Joyce Nicholson Holy Communion
15 June	Mr Grenville Jensen
22 June	10.30am Rev George Bailey 4.00pm Family JAM
29 June	Worship at Cross Gates Methodist, no service at Colton
6 July	Rev Becki Stennett Church Anniversary & Parade Service (for all ages, Holy Communion included)

Diary Dates

Wednesday 11 June – Deacon Adelha's testimony service, prior to her ordination, is at Oakwood Church, starting at 7pm. All are welcome for what promises to be a very interesting evening.

Sunday 13 July – Rev Edward's last service at Christ Church, it will be nice to see everyone there.

Sunday 27 July – Farewell service for George, Edward, Becki and Mark, 4pm at Christ Church.



OOH, DO THAT BISHOP THING WHERE YOU
MOVE DIAGONALLY

Senior Steward	Helen Lappage (CC)	07415 058187 helenlappage@sky.com
	Kathryn Glasby (Colton)	07503 740500 kathryn.glasby@talktalk.net
	Elaine Preston (Colton)	07760 737515 ea.preston@ntlworld.com
Room Bookings	Pauline Wood (CC)	0113 2647510 paulineawood@yahoo.co.uk
	Shirley Dann (Colton)	0113 2820828 colton.mcbookings@outlook.com
Ministers	Rev Edward Sakwe (CC)	0113 4147602 revsakwe@yahoo.co.uk
	Rev Nicola Robinson (CC)	07572 986305 revnicola.robinson@gmail.com
	Rev Becki Stennett (Colton)	0113 2872412 becki.stennett@methodist.org.uk