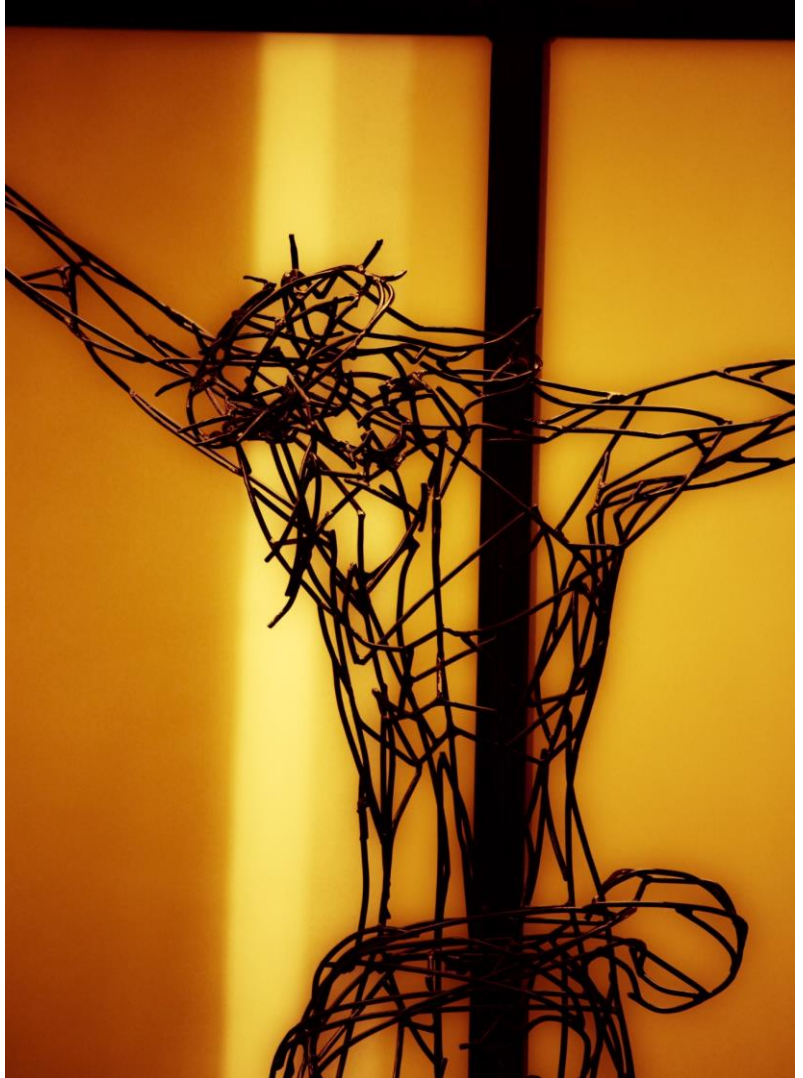


CONTACT

CHRIST CHURCH HALTON
COLTON METHODIST CHURCH

March 2024



Becki's Letter

One of the ways I'm journeying through Lent this year is by reading daily reflections from a beautiful new book by Rachel Mann called 'A Truth Universally Acknowledged: 40 days with Jane Austen'. For some of you, perhaps this is a book that might make your eyes glaze over a little bit, and for others perhaps you're intrigued. Whether or not you enjoy Jane Austen, it's possible you know this famous four-word sequence, 'a truth universally acknowledged'. The full quote from Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice* is as follows: "It is a truth universally acknowledged, that a single man in possession of a good fortune, must be in want of a wife."

The words are meant as a witty and tongue-in-cheek introduction to the key social context that the book ahead explores. And while I want to talk to you more and more about *Pride and Prejudice* and indeed this lovely book that I'm reading, I think I'd better get to a point and keep it brief!

The thought I wanted to share with you is this: There must be so many 'truths universally acknowledged' in our world, and plenty about living as people of faith. So many assumptions, stereotypes, characteristics and behaviours which people take for granted are universally adopted and shared by Christian people. This isn't necessarily a bad thing, but I can't escape the niggling feeling that sometimes those things many take to be universally true about Christians might not be things I'd like to be true about me. I worry that those stereotypes might include 'judgemental', 'boring', 'strict', 'non-inclusive', 'holier-than-thou'.

I wonder if there's a task for all Christians to remember what it is we're called to be known for, and to spend time and energy on making sure that's what others see. Shortly after he washed his disciples' feet, on the evening of the Last Supper, Jesus speaks with his friends and tells them that he gives them a new commandment: to love each other.

He says this: 'By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.' My prayer for all of us is that we grow in love for one another and for the community we're called to, and that we find new and wonderful ways to demonstrate that love and care, so whatever else people might have thought about Christians, it becomes 'a truth universally acknowledged' that we are a people of radical, wonderful, all-embracing love. Let us turn our eyes and hearts to the greatest example of radical love this Lent, to the very person of Christ. - *Rev Becki*

Musings of a Wayward Pilgrim

Going Faster



Time seems in such short supply today. Gandhi said, "Just because it takes longer to do something, doesn't mean it's not worth doing". Yet one senses there is "hurry" in the bloodstream of most citizens of the modern western world. Buying gadgets and using technologies appear to be a compulsion for most of us, hell-bent on keeping up with the perceived flow of our lives; lives which are so often containers into which we try to squeeze more and more, while trying desperately to achieve some sense of fullness. As our personal velocities increase with props to manipulate and speed tasks, we end up doing more but can we honestly report that we are any closer to feeling whole? Does slowness really deserve to be treated as a vice?

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

East Leeds Gathers – Free Soup Lunch **Saturday 9 March, Cross Gates Methodist Church Hall, 12-3pm**

We'll be building relationships, sharing food and praying in groups and altogether. There'll be a mixture of led, silent and corporate prayer for various themes using different styles. Something for everyone!

As well as praying for wider East Leeds, we will have time to pray for Cross Gates and its Churches. We will also be praying especially for the Seacroft Mission which is starting Sunday 17th March. All welcome Jonathan & Kären Gray, Crossgates Community, 07985 035125. Church without walls.

Memories of Colton

by Lyndsey Crowley (Bates), born 1973

My first memory of Colton is going with my friend and her mum to Colton Methodist Church, Helen and Elizabeth Wynn. I was around 8 years old, and I kept going to church after that. I would try to listen to the whole service, but I never managed it without some daydreaming. We would go through to Junior Church, (Mr & Mrs Hobbs were the Sunday school teachers), to read stories and colour pictures.

I remember the church felt very old, dark and cold when we went through to the vestry. Once we were in the vestry and I had a fake fur coat on – we all tried to get close to a small electric fire and my coat started to burn. Mr Hobbs was always very wise and knowing, he always had a special word for everyone.

At Christmas I remember rehearsing for and performing the nativity; David Wood was in charge. For a few years I was Mary and sang some solos as I had a nice singing voice, but I got self-conscious after a few years and wouldn't sing alone. We used to have a Christmas party and I loved seeing the assorted tray of cakes being delivered, I think from Rudge's bakery in Halton.

In Junior Church at Christmas we were asked to choose a book we would like and the church would give us these for Christmas – I thought this was really exciting. It had a book label in saying it was from Colton Church.

My Nana lived in Burley in Wharfedale and went to the Methodist church there, so if she was staying with us she would come to church with me.

When we started to fundraise to build the new church, Helen and I became the "smartie girls" – members of the congregation would fill an empty tube of Smarties with pennies, and Helen and I had the job of counting all the pennies. Sometimes someone would put a 20p in the top, which was quite exciting.

Helen and I also got confirmed at Colton Church. We had to go to St Wilfred's in Halton for confirmation lessons, and on the day we got confirmed, we were quite overwhelmed. People had bought us cards and I we got a silver cross on a pin. Everyone was saying welcome to the church, we hadn't expected anything like it.

I remember after church services we sometimes went to the old farm shop in Colton, run by Mick and Maureen Carroll. I remember it being quite a rough and ready shop and I was always a bit scared because they had some dogs.

Continued...

I used to enjoy walking down to Temple Newsam from Colton, down Farm Lane. I loved looking at all the old cottages. My favourite was the small Rose Cottage on Meynell Road, I always thought I would like to live there.

- Lyndsey

Has owning a keyboard always been on your wishlist?



If so....now is your chance to own one! We are looking to rehome a keyboard from Colton Church. It was kindly donated by Norma Middleton a while ago but it's now no longer in use at Colton. The keyboard is a Technics PCM KN650 and comes with a stand and carry bag. Free to a good home, but a donation to the charity Parkinson's UK would be appreciated. If you're interested please contact Kathryn Glasby (email kathryn.glasby@talktalk.net)



Table-Top Sale at Christ Church Halton

**Saturday 16 March from 10 am to 12
noon.**

Christ Church Lunch Club

Every Thursday 12.15 – 1.45 pm, join us for a 3-course lunch plus coffee or tea. Vegetarian, vegan, and medical dietary options are available if pre-ordered. Booking required. The usual cost is £6 payable on the day, and new members are always welcome. Please phone Joyce on 0113 294 6843.

HOT OFF THE PRESS – Meals available at just £3 until Easter thanks to a grant from Leeds City Council!

Quotes for Easter

“Dawn and resurrection are synonymous. The reappearance of the light is the same as the survival of the soul.”

- Victor Hugo

Spring

By Pauline Hardman



New life, the world is awakening
from frosty dormance and gloom.
Daffodils herald a new morn,
Spring will be with us soon.
Sweep out the clutter that binds us,
refresh with thoughts anew.
The beauty of hope is all around.
Joy is waiting for you.



Positivity

By Pauline Hardman

I rise in the morning,
not pleased with my lot,
but a faint small voice says
“look, enjoy what you've got.”
The packet of cornflakes
is almost half empty.
That same small voice says,
“you've food a plenty”.
It's cold outside
and I'd rather stay home.
I soon realise
I've got freedom to roam.
My cup looks half empty,
but it's really half full.
So I'll look on the bright side,
then my day won't be dull.



DO YOU HAVE A SPARE ROOM?

Leeds Asylum Seekers' Network is looking for volunteers to offer temporary accommodation to asylum seekers.



Could you welcome a guest into your home and provide a warm, clean place to sleep and wash?

Minimum stay 1 week, training and regular support provided.

Contact jo@lassn.org.uk for more details.



Colton Dates For Your Diary



Sunday 17th March

Church Annual General Meeting following worship (see separate item in this month's Contact).

Saturday 18th May

Colton Plant Sale 10am to 12 noon.

“Dad Joke” of the Month!

“My wife was cross with me because I didn’t buy her flowers. To be honest, I didn’t even know she sold flowers!”



Leeds URC Partnership Quiet Day

“Elsewhere in this month’s Contact you’ll see an advert for the second Partnership Quiet Day, on 20 April. Last year’s was held at Parcevall Hall and was a wonderful day of fellowship and reflection. You may remember Alison’s Contact article about it. We expect that this year’s event will be equally memorable, if not more so as we have more places available. Both days have been funded by a grant from the URC so there is no cost for the day. Travel will be by shared cars and will again be free. There will, however, be the opportunity for anyone who chooses to do so to make a donation to a new fund to assist anyone unable to afford to attend future similar events.

Do come along, meet new people from other Partnership churches, enjoy good food and beautiful surrounding and enrich your faith. Sign up, either by contacting Angela by email or phone or by giving your name to me.” *Jenny Poulter*

Quotes for Easter

“You can cut all the flowers, but you cannot keep spring from coming.”

- Pablo Neruda



Lent and Easter Giving at Colton

During Lent, we're asking you to think of something small that you use or buy often and collect the money you've saved by giving it up. It might be a tempting snack, a chocolate bar, a magazine, or a takeaway coffee – every penny saved will quickly add up and will help our charity of the year, People in Action, in their work. We also invite you to support them through prayer, giving thanks for the work they do and praying for all involved in their operation. Details about the charity are on the moveable Prayer Board, usually found in church, near the entrance. Please bring any money you've collected to church by Sunday 7th April in an envelope marked "Lent Giving".

Also, on Palm Sunday (24th March) and Easter Day (31st March) there will be envelopes available for any donations to the Methodist World Mission Fund.

Thank you for your support.

Messy Church @ Christ Church



Our ever-popular Messy Church takes place in its usual slot on the second Saturday of March, that's March 9th. We'll be meeting from 2pm to 4pm, talking about Easter and Mother's Day, with crafts, games, stories, singing, dancing and refreshments for all ages to enjoy – bring your friends! All children must be accompanied by an adult, and we operate on a "pay as you feel able" basis, with a suggested donation of £1 per child. We hope to see you there – please speak to Helen or Sue for more details.

Christ Church Halton Guild

February has produced a rich variety of speakers, Yemane Aradom fled from Eritrea as a refugee, taking a long and dangerous journey to the UK as a teenager and today, ten years on, is a Priest at a Roman Catholic Church in North Leeds.

Historians enjoyed the story of the battle of Marston Moor, a bloody affair indeed, but as we look around the world today, has much changed!

Nearer to home a solicitor told us about some of his experiences working in the Bingley area, both sad and amusing.

Tonight's speaker (as I write), Revd Tim Nicholls, is a Chaplain at Leeds University and will be talking about the intriguing subject of the 4th Plinth in Trafalgar Square. If you didn't manage to get to it, ask us about it when you see us and hopefully we will know more!

Parking difficulties are being experienced on a Tuesday evening as a result of double yellow lines being placed on roads around the Church premises and members are asked to share cars wherever possible to reduce traffic.

The March programme is the last of our 2023/2024 session:

5th March. - World Church Adventures sees the return of a former Minister, Revd Marlene Wilkinson compares her experiences of working in different countries around the world.

12th March. - Last Gasp Players. Fingers crossed for a dramatic presentation by this elusive band of thespians.

19th March. - Annual General Meeting. An important meeting for you to have your say about the running of our Guild.

26th March - Holy Week Service which is led by the Revd. Tanya Short, Co-Superintendent of the Leeds North and East Methodist Circuit.

LEEDS URC PARTNERSHIP QUIET DAY

Saturday 20th April 2024

Community of the Resurrection, Stocks
Bank Road, Mirfield, WF14 0BN

10am-4pm



The day will be led by the Ministry Team on
the theme:

How shall we now live in the light of the
resurrection?'

- A time for worship and reflection
- Lunch with a time for fellowship
- Opportunities to explore the beautiful
grounds

We are delighted that the cost of this day is covered by a grant.
Please register your interest with Revd Angela Hughes by 24 March:
angela.hughes1@icloud.com 07752 904317

WOW Concert @ Colton

Wow! Wow! Wow! What a wonderfully joyous concert on Saturday 24th February by the highly talented WOW (Wakefield Orchestral Wind) Band. We were treated to Bond themes, Out Of Africa, a superb horn solo, songs from the shows and much more! Indeed the singing of the Lambeth Walk, and some impromptu dancing, continued into the kitchen during washing/clearing up!

A very big **THANK YOU** to all who helped by donating cakes for refreshments, setting up on Friday and then transforming the 'concert hall' and cafe back into place for worship, in record time on Saturday.

The sales of tickets amounted to £380 shared equally between the church and the band.

The Raffle raised £141 and following additional donations on Saturday and Sunday that sum became £231 for our Charity of the Year, People in Action. All in all a fantastic day.

EASTER PUZZLE!

Can you solve these Easter-themed anagrams? You'll find the answers at the very bottom of this month's Contact.

SORCERER UNIT (1 WORD)
DODY FIGARO (2 WORDS)
BENETTA NORSE (2 WORDS)
APPLE RUSTS (2 WORDS)
ANETTE HUGGERS (3 WORDS)
SHADES YAWNED (2 WORDS)
ARETHA PEPYS (2 WORDS)
ARV CLAY (1 WORD)



Colton Church Annual General Meeting Sunday 17th March

Worship on Sunday 17th March will be led by our minister Revd Becki Stennett and will include Holy Communion. This will be immediately followed by our church AGM, chaired by Revd Becki, so you are invited to stay for a cuppa following worship and take part in the meeting.

The AGM will include the appointment of church stewards and representatives to Church Council, so please give prayerful consideration to this important part of the meeting. We will be selecting a church charity for 2024/25, as well as sharing our thoughts on the Way Ahead for Colton, following consideration of the Circuit Strategy discussion paper. We will circulate a report booklet, prior to the meeting to reduce the time needed for the meeting. This will contain reports from our minister, the Treasurer, Pastoral Carers, Junior Church, Senior Stewards, and Wednesday Coffee Morning.

Quotes for Easter

“We proclaim the resurrection of Christ when his light illuminates the dark moments of our existence.”

– Pope Francis

East Leeds History and Archaeology Society Friday 27th March, 2pm

Andy Wilson will deliver an illustrated talk: ‘Berenblum and the Bari Bombs – How the research of Issa Berenblum in Leeds contributed to the discovery of chemotherapy’.

Our talks take place in the Methodist Church Hall, Cross Gates and all are welcome. Admission £2.00 including refreshments.

Forthcoming Services at Christ Church

3 March	Rev Edward Sakwe
10 March	Mrs Hazel Featherstone
17 March	Rev Dr Nicola Robinson Holy Communion
24 March	Mr Steven Jones Palm Sunday
29 March	7.30 pm Rev Dr Nicola Robinson Good Friday
31 March	Rev Edward Sakwe Easter Sunday, Holy Communion
7 April	Mr John Summerwill

Other Easter Services

As well as at Colton (see opposite) Maundy Thursday Holy Communion takes place at Garforth Methodist Church at 7.30pm, led by Rev Norma Davey.

Walk of Witness – meet at Colton at 10am if you'd like to join a group walking to the 11am service at Cross Gates Methodist Church, as part of the Churches Together in East Leeds Walk of Witness.

Meanwhile in Barwick, you can join a 'stations of the cross' service at 2pm at All Saints Church.

Forthcoming Services at Colton

3 March	Miss Mary Patchett All-age & Parade Service
10 March	Mrs Catherine Freize
17 March	Rev Becki Stennett Holy Communion
24 March	Mr David Laycock
28 March	7.30pm Rev Becki Stennett Maundy Thursday, Holy Communion
31 March	Rev Joyce Nicholson Easter Sunday, Holy Communion
7 April	Local Arrangement All-age worship

Help needed...

...for an afternoon tea in aid of the Window Fund on Saturday, 4th May. If you can spare a couple of hours in the morning to help prepare or a couple of hours in the afternoon to help serve, please speak to Sheila Staveley (0113 2602553)

"Contact" Deadline

Please let Andy have any articles or contributions for April's Contact by 7pm on Tuesday 2 April. Many thanks.
andybirkett76@gmail.com or 07952 861316.



Thanks to Pam Winn (See John 20:1-18)

04-12-2004

“Nothing is certain except what and taxes?!?”

Senior Steward

Helen Lappage (CC)

helenlappage@sky.com

Kathryn Glasby (Colton)

07503 740500

kathryn.glasby@talktalk.net

Elaine Preston (Co-Senior Steward, Colton)

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)

revnicola.robinson@gmail.com

Rev Becki Stennett (Colton)

0113 2872412

becki.stennett@methodist.org.uk

Easter anagram answers: resurrection, Good Friday, Easter bonnet, Last Supper, Easter Egg hunt, Ash Wednesday, Happy Easter, Calvary