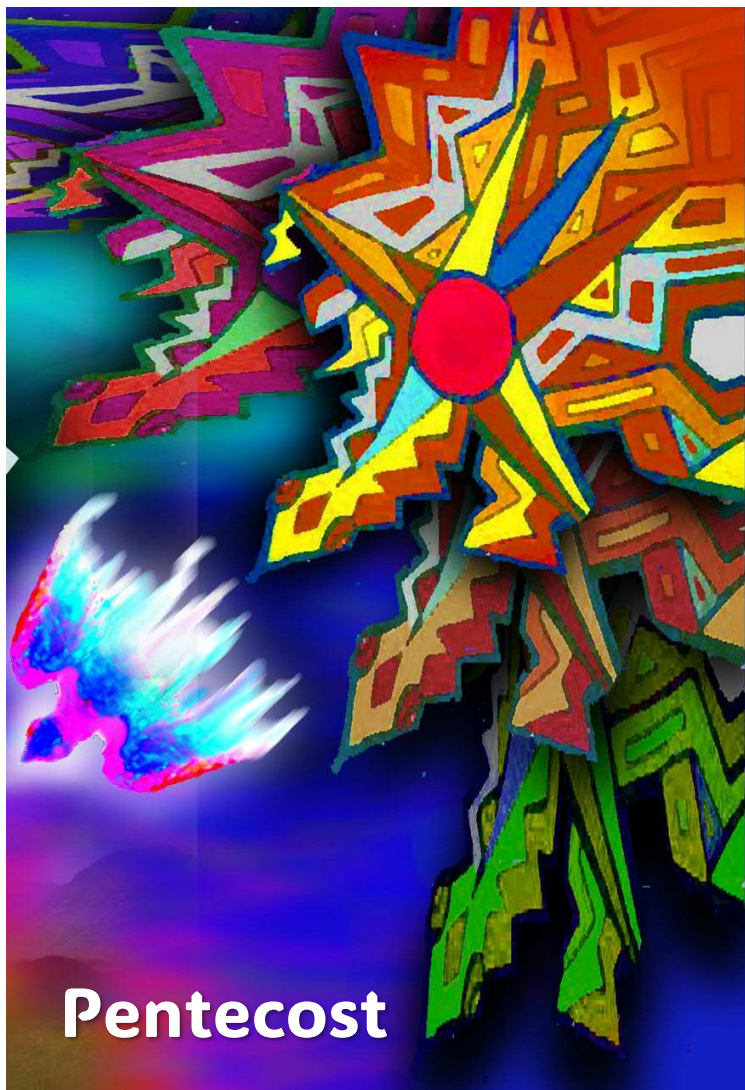


CONTACT

CHRIST CHURCH HALTON
COLTON METHODIST CHURCH

May 2024



Edward's Letter

Dear People of God – greetings in the precious name of the risen Lord.

After the overwhelming excitement of Easter, we now look forward to Pentecost that sometimes seems like a minor event but a key moment in the history of the Christian faith. It is described in Acts 2: 1-13. Pentecost commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles, which occurred fifty days after Jesus' Resurrection. Pentecost holds great significance in Christian tradition because it infuses the small community of Jesus-followers with the core mission that would define the Christian Church ever after: to share the message of Jesus Christ with the entire world.

Consider that in the weeks following Christ's death and resurrection, many of His followers were undoubtedly still processing the incredible events they had witnessed and were probably wondering what God wanted them to do now that Jesus had carried out His mission. On Pentecost, God made it clear what Christ-followers should do with the news of Jesus Christ: share it with others. And not just with the Jewish communities in which they lived; the multi-linguistic nature of this miracle made it plain that the Gospel message was not confined to one community, nation, ethnicity, or language.

Pentecost is when the Christian Church received and was empowered to carry out its grand assignment of evangelism. For this reason, Pentecost is sometimes referred to as the "Birthday of the Christian Church."

The mission given to Christians still stands, thousands of years later. We are to share the saving message of Jesus Christ with the world – and as we do so, we should rely on the presence of the Holy Spirit, who empowered the early church to share the gospel, and continues to do so today.

May the gift of God's Spirit fill your hearts, homes and your family this Pentecost.

Edward



URC Partnership Quiet Day

“Five of us from Christ Church attended the quiet day at the Church of England college, Community of the Resurrection at Mirfield.

The place was good once we found the right gateway. The day was put together by the URC partnership team and was designed to help us meet up with others from our partnership churches in Leeds.

Each of the ministers introduced a part of the day, and there was time to explore the beautiful grounds in contemplation. Luckily it was one of our first dry days! Daffs, blue/pink/white-bells and blossoms added to the scene, and the bird song was brilliant. There were several choices to fill the day, from prayerful crafts to thoughtful walking in nature, and in the church and there was even a labyrinth. Communion in the church (more like a cathedral) was led by the monks – it was special, and good to be part of.



Lunch gave us a chance to share with others once again, around a baked potato! The day was set to help us on our journey of faith and I came away refreshed and revitalised. Thanks to the Leadership team. Due to grant funding we enjoyed the day for free too.”

- Alison.

Pictured is a cross, crafted by Alison during the day

Giving Thanks

“On June 11th, 2008 at a maximum security prison in Huntsville, Texas, Karl Christiansen was executed by lethal injection. He had confessed to rape and murder in 1991 and had been on Death Row since his conviction in 1997. In an interview prior to his execution, having undergone a soul-wrenching and cleansing confrontation with his crime, imprisonment and eventual fate, he said, ‘If you want to be great in this life, do this one thing - don't complain. Instead, be grateful. Gratitude changes everything.’

Possibly the greatest virtue to which the heart can aspire is the cost-free act of giving thanks. If each of us, before surrendering to sleep, would recall those moments of the day for which we had cause to be thankful, I suspect that the quality of shared life in the greater world would be fundamentally and inexorably changed. A new Eden could be planted and cultivated into abundance if we were to take a few moments simply to be glad for the small, easy-to-neglect gifts received each day. Such acts of bold gratitude might liberate more than we can imagine.”

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



Messy Church @ Christ Church

It was great to see so many of you last month for Messy Church, as we looked at everyone being different, but all being welcome in God’s family. We’re back as

usual for May on Saturday 11th from 2-4pm. Bring your friends and family and join the fun! We’ll be celebrating Pentecost (a little early!) and hearing about the work of Christian Aid. Of course, we’ll have all the regular crafts, refreshments, fun and games too. If you’d like to come, it would really help us if you could let us know, via Facebook, by emailing helenlappage@sky.com, or by calling Sue on 0113 2647037.

New Ground Floor Windows at Christ Church

Members, friends and regular users of our building would like to pass on their gratitude to all who have donated to, fund raised, sought grants and supported fundraising events for our phase 2, ground floor window fund.

With some planned fundraising still to happen we will have exceeded our target of the amount required but this has already allowed us to purchase some new curtains (after the original 30+ year old ones shredded during washing) and it will seed a refurbishment (phase 3) fund for work to be planned in 2025.



Particular thanks go to some generous donors and also to our grant funders; Congregational and General Charitable Trust, Benefact Trust and Morley Glass and Glazing.

We would also like to acknowledge the wonderful service received from the manufacturers and installers of our new windows, Bennion & Sons of Wakefield, and express our gratitude for the quality of their product and their efficiency and reliability in planning and executing the work. **THANK YOU ALL.**

“I Don’t Know”

Submitted by Dorothy

Did you know there’s a prayer called the “I don’t know prayer? You just go somewhere quiet and sit at the feet of God and you say “I don’t know”. I don’t know where to go from here. I don’t know what is happening. I don’t know how to process this. I don’t know what to do with these emotions. I don’t know how to handle this situation. And then, with whatever grain of faith you have, you say “but you know.” And leave it there. God most certainly hears your prayer.

Then say Amen. Leave it with God.

Change the Batteries

When a torch grows dim or quits working, you don't throw away it away. You change the batteries.

When a person messes up and finds themselves in a dark place, do you cast them aside? Of course not. You help them change or recharge their batteries!

Some need AA. Attention and affection.

Some need AAA. Attention, affection and acceptance.

Some need C - Compassion.

Some need D - Direction.

And if they still don't seem to shine, simply sit with them and share your light.

Christ Church Guild Update

The Guild is now in its Summer Mode whereby we keep in touch with a monthly coffee event. If you haven't already received a copy of the summer brochure let us know and we will get a copy to you. If you are coming to the next event at Christ Church on Tuesday the 7th May at 2.30pm you can pick one up then.

The Planning Committee have met recently and progress is being made with the Autumn Programme which commences at 7.30pm on Tuesday 10th September. This will be our 65th Session and a number of interesting speakers have already agreed to attend.

The next event will be our annual plant sale and details of that appear in a separate article in this Contact. Please tell your friends and neighbours about this event and come and enjoy the refreshments which will also be available. A prayer for good weather would also be appropriate considering how it has been over the past months.

Hoping to see you soon. *Peter Grubb, Co-President with Tony Pickles*



Leeds URC Partnership Pentecost Picnic



Sunday 19th May
Headingley St. Columba
Headingley Lane
LS6 2DH



Arrive from 1pm, worship at 2pm

Indoors if wet

Bring a picnic, drinks provided

For more information, contact Alex Walker
alexwalker67@gmail.com / 07972 901634

About Reverend Steven Jones

Here's a message from our Circuit Superintendents that was read out in our churches recently. Many of you will know Steven Jones as a local preacher in our Circuit.

"We are delighted to announce that Steven Jones has worked through a process over the last year in order to become an ordained minister of the Methodist Church in Britain. Steven was ordained by the Methodist Church of Southern Africa, where he was stationed in circuit ministry. When he moved to the UK he decided not to consider transferring his ordained ministry straight away. He has served in this circuit as a Local Preacher for some years, and his ministry in this role is greatly appreciated.

He will now be received as an ordained presbyteral minister into full connexion with the Methodist Church in Britain at the Methodist Conference in Leeds on 30th June. From that day he will be known as a minister (taking the title Reverend), be authorised to dress as a minister, and to carry out his presbyteral calling by presiding at services of holy communion. Steven will be stationed to this circuit as a 'minister in another appointment' outside the church. He will continue his professional career as an accountant and to serve in the circuit in his spare time, and he will continue to be the Circuit Financial Steward.

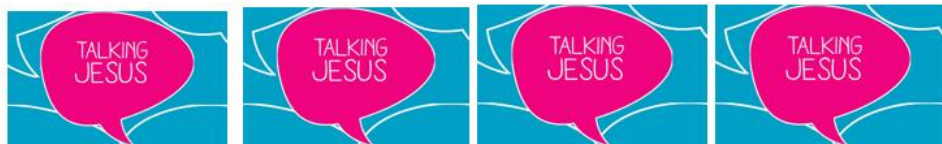
We are delighted to celebrate this change with Steven and look forward to his presbyteral ministry in our churches.

Yours in Christ, Revd's Tanya Short and George Bailey"

Halton Wombles!

A huge thank you to Halton Wombles who tirelessly collect litter in our area. We also have two special ladies who clean up our church car park every weekend and support Saturday coffee. Grateful thanks to all!





Circuit Summer Workshops

The Talking Jesus course has been inspiring thousands of Christians to share their faith. The six video-based sessions give practical suggestions to help encourage natural and relevant conversations about Jesus. The sessions include short films, inspirational short testimonies, and real-life examples from people who are talking Jesus.

The Circuit is hosting 3 sets of the 6 week Talking Jesus course and there is still time to get involved.

Christ Church Halton - Monday Evening 7.30pm **Remaining sessions 13th and 20th May**

ON Zoom – Wednesday Evening 7.30pm

<https://zoom.us/j/92092458021?pwd=VUZWeDRrVG84Y0Z6alRx dE9Uc1h5Zz09>

Meeting ID: 920 9245 8021

Passcode: Wesley

Remaining sessions 8th, 15th, 22nd May & last date to be announced.

Lidgett Park – Wednesday Afternoon 1.00pm **5th, 12th, 19th, 26th June & 10th, 17th July**

Philip ran up to the chariot and heard the man reading Isaiah the prophet. “Do you understand what you are reading?” Philip asked. “How can I,” he said, “unless someone explains it to me?” So he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus. – *Talking about Jesus in Acts*
Chapter 8

Bluebell Woods

By Pauline Hardman



Green are the trees, Spring is here
and Bluebells soon will be dancing.
That's when the woods are mine.
Bluebell woods.

There should be a name,
as you enter within
into the magic of time.

A carpet rich in colour and scent,
emotions spark memories of childhood,
when we picked them freely,
displayed for mum proudly
in a jam jar.

Now they remain where they belong
for all to see and enjoy,
in Bluebell woods.

Where the trees are green, offering shade,
where invisible names say
these are my woods.

A walk through lifts the spirit,
the beauty staying in the minds eye,
this one of God's gifts
and there are many Bluebell woods.



Best wishes

- ❖ Happy birthday to everyone celebrating this month.
- ❖ To all the younger members of our churches, and extended church family, at university or school who are taking or about to take exams – we wish you well.
- ❖ Please remember in your prayers those members of our churches who, due to health concerns, are no longer able to attend weekly services.

A little bit of..... **JAM!!**

You know we love cake at Colton Church, but we also love JAM!

JAM = Jesus And Me!



We've got a new session running at Colton Methodist Church, Family JAM. **Family JAM** runs on the 4th Sunday of each month, 4pm to 6pm.

What is it? 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.

Who is it for? Everyone! 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.

What does it cost? It's totally free!

To find out more and to book a space please email info.coltonchurch@gmx.co.uk, message our Facebook page "Colton Methodist Church, Leeds" or pop a note through the church letterbox.



Christ Church Summer Fair

Join us on Saturday 1 June for
our summer extravaganza!

10am – 1pm

Refreshments, cakes, jigsaw
and craft stalls, tombolas and
much more!

Christ Church Table-Top Sale

Saturday 18 May, 10am – 12noon

Come and browse our range of stalls, with a huge variety of products and great deals on offer!

Contact Sue on 0113 2647037 for more information.



Christian Aid Week 2024

12-18 May

Seven days, so many ways. Aline Nibogora was living on the streets of Burundi. Poverty pushed her to the limit – she was abused homeless and hungry. But Aline pushed back harder. With Christian Aid-funded small business training, she kickstarted a vital income for her and her children.

Look out for ways you can support Christian Aid this month – helping those in need to help themselves.

After the wedding, the little ringbearer asked his father,
“How many brides can the groom marry?”

“One,” his father said. “Why do you ask?”

“Because the priest said he could marry sixteen,” the boy
said, puzzled.

“How’d you come up with that?” his father asked.

“Easy,” the little boy said. “All you have to do is add it up
like the priest said: 4 better, 4 worse, 4 richer, 4 poorer.”

Worship Planning for Colton Church



Steward representatives from Scholes, Crossgates, Garforth and Colton met with Revd Becki in March to set out a basic plan for services in the next quarter and ministerial cover for communion. Due to the number of churches in our section and to prepare for a reduced number of ministers within the circuit from next year, and some lay preachers being unavailable, churches will have to consider new ways of worship and joint services.

We have decided in our section that we should start to think about this sooner rather than later, so this was taken into account in our planning especially where there are 5 Sundays in the month. This does not mean we are changing the whole format of worship at Colton; we will still have services within our church on a regular basis. We hope everyone will be willing to give new ideas a try and work with the team of stewards as we continue to do our best for Colton. Changes already in the pipeline include:

Sunday 30th June – worship at Crossgates Methodist Church when the Methodist Conference Sunday worship will be shown on the big screen, live from the Armouries in Leeds!

Sunday 28th July – worship at Garforth Methodist Church when Steven Jones (who will be Reverend by then – see separate item!) will lead worship with Revd Becki, including Holy Communion.

Work will be starting this summer on the stationing process for ministers whose current appointment ends in September 2025 and this includes our own minister Revd Becki. We'll keep you updated on the process and the outcome in due course.

Thank you, from Kathryn and Elaine (co senior stewards).

JUNE CONTACT DEADLINE – 28 MAY, 7PM
07952 861316 / andybirkett76@gmail.com

Forthcoming Services at Christ Church

5 May Rev Dr Nicola Robinson

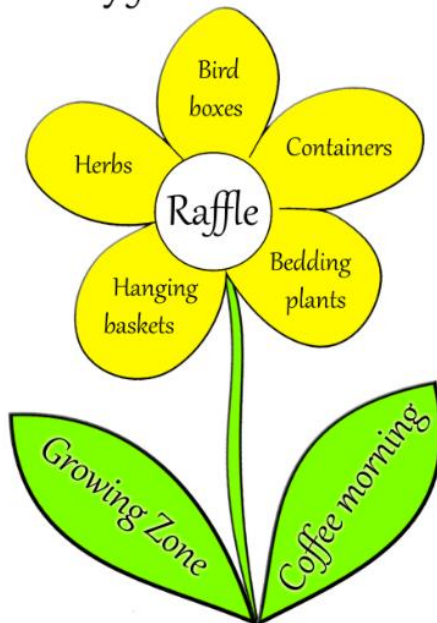
12 May Local Arrangement

19 May Rev Dr Nicola Robinson

26 May Rev Tim Lowe
Holy Communion

2 June Rev Edward Sakwe

Plant Sale
@
Colton Methodist Church
18th May from 10am - 12 noon



Cash payments only

Proceeds to be split
between Colton
Church and People
in Action

Colton Methodist
Church @ the heart
of the Colton
Community

Forthcoming Services at Colton

5 May	Rev Becki Stennett All-Age & Parade Service
12 May	Mr John Summerwill
19 May	Rev Mark Stennett
26 May	Rev Joyce Nicholson Holy Communion
2 June	Rev Kerry Tankard All-Age Service

Dates For Your Diary at Colton

Saturday 18th May 10am to 12noon

Colton Church Plant Sale

Sunday 30th June 10.30am

Worship at Crossgates Methodist Church

Saturday 6th July 1pm to 4pm

Tearoom with stalls to celebrate the Church Anniversary. Save the date! Please let Kathryn or Elaine know if you would be willing to help with this event. More details to follow.

Monday 15th July 7.30pm

Colton Church Council

Sunday 28th July 10.30am

Worship at Garforth Methodist Church

Christ Church Halton Guild

Sale of bedding plants, etc

Thursday 16th May 9am - 4.30pm

Friday 17th May 9am - 4.30pm

Saturday 18th May 9am - 12.30pm

Plus second-hand book stall.

REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE

Proceeds for church funds

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)

07572 986305

revnicola.robinson@gmail.com

Rev Becki Stennett (Colton)

0113 2872412

becki.stennett@methodist.org.uk