

CONTACT

CHRIST CHURCH HALTON
COLTON METHODIST CHURCH

May 2025



Nicola's Letter

This month, we journey through the Season of Easter. A season which lasts for 50 days, beginning on Easter Sunday and culminating on Pentecost Sunday. At our last Leeds URC Partnership Quiet Day, we explored the theme: 'How do we live now in

the light of the resurrection?' What follows is my reflection on how the Resurrection shapes my faith and how I try to live out this faith.

In our Gospels, the stories of Jesus' resurrection highlight the importance of our senses. Particularly, the sense of touch. In one story, one of Jesus's disciples, Thomas, needs to not only see Jesus but to touch his wounds and scars. In another story, on the road to Emmaus, Jesus once again appears to the disciples and shows them his wounds and scars. The very fact that Jesus had to do this tells us that just seeing Jesus was not enough: it was too shocking, too mind-blowing, too confusing to see Jesus standing there clearly alive when they knew He had died by crucifixion.

It is the reality of the scars and wounds that Jesus bears which reveals to the disciples the extraordinary truth of the Resurrection. Resurrection is seen in the wounds and scars of our lives and our world where we allow God to Easter within us. Resurrection never denies the pain and wounds of life. It is not a pretty picture covering up nasty things. It is the reality of God with us. It is the difference God makes, God's kingdom or kin-dom of love and justice.

It is the difference each one of us can make. Working, praying for and with the wounds and scars of our world and for Resurrection to come. This is a deeply powerful image for all people, who have also been wounded and marginalized by society.

Particularly because each time Jesus shows His scars and wounds, he also speaks. He greets His friends with the words: "Peace be with you." In Jewish culture at this time, the greeting 'Peace be with you' was often accompanied by a physical gesture. Placing the right hand on the other person's shoulder, a sign of closeness and intimacy. This gesture and the words 'Peace be with you' were a way of affirming the other person's presence and well-being, acknowledging their value and dignity as a human being.

I invite us to imagine what acknowledging then embodying and living out this message could mean in our lives and world today. In the face of the
(continued)

trans and non-binary siblings' encounter. In the face of apathy and indifference to all who are homeless here and across the world.

I try to make the Resurrection the heart of how I live out my faith. Perhaps you could use the Season of Easter to do likewise? Why? Because the Resurrection is for every aspect of our lives today. It is worth our energy and prayer. It is worth the challenge to our comfort or status quo. Because it offers a transformation which our world so desperately needs. A transformation which can make God's kingdom or kin-dom of love and justice a reality.

- Nicola

Braving A Shaving!

Congratulations to Christ Church's Sarah Wonnacott, who took the plunge and had her head shaved, to raise money for St Gemma's Hospice. You can see the 'before and after' photos below!

Sarah raised an incredible £728 – thank you to everyone who supported her.



East Leeds History and Archaeology Society

Friday 30th May at 2pm, Methodist Church Hall, Cross Gates
**'Lost Descendants of King Henry VIII? – and Queen Elizabeth
1st's**

Rival' – an illustrated talk by Mr David Glover. All are welcome.
Admission £2.00 (including refreshments)

Thanksgiving Service and Celebration of the life of John Bacon

“Please join with our family and friends on Wednesday 7th May for an 11.30 am service at Christ Church Halton. The service will be followed by refreshments. There is no dress code, but John did love colour!” - *Dorothy Bacon*



Easter at Christ Church

It was wonderful to see Christ Church so full on Easter morning, both for our Easter breakfast, and 10.30 service. We welcomed visitors, newcomers, Messy Church families and of course our ‘regulars’ to a joyful morning of celebration, with hardly an empty seat in the house. Nicola led a service of hope and Easter joy, enhanced by Concordia leading songs before the service, Thelma on the organ, Joan and Alison who prepared the breakfast, and our volunteers who welcomed people at the door, arranged the flowers and served refreshments after worship. We’ve received lots of positive feedback on Facebook, and it was a lovely morning all round.

Cross Gates & District Good Neighbours’ Scheme Working with and for older people

First Monday of the month: 10am – 11.30am

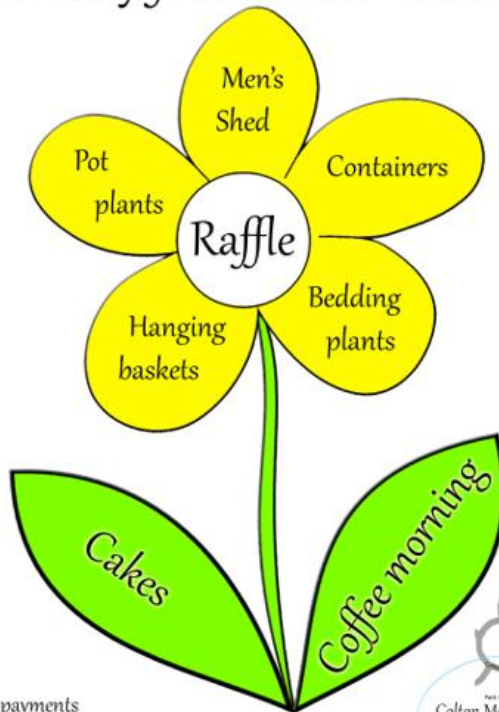
Come and join us for a cuppa in a relaxed and friendly environment. We can let you know what’s on locally and the services we offer.

For further information, drop into our office, call

0113 260 6565, or email:

Claire.Wall@crossgatesgns.org.uk

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



Cash only payments

Proceeds for the Church Repair and Renew fund



Colton Methodist Church

@ the heart of the Colton Community

WOW Concert @ Colton

Thank you to all who supported this event in any way – helping set up, clear away, wash and dry pots, and thank you for all the generous donations of cakes. The event was a great success, the band really enjoyed playing and the lovely Colton welcome. The amount raised in ticket sales was £476, split between the band and Colton Repair and Renew Fund, therefore £238 each. The Raffle, Name the Musician and cake sales amounted to £232.32 for the DEC Myanmar Appeal. The Final total sent to the DEC Appeal including donations from following services is £251.33. A big THANK YOU to all.

**SAT
10
MAY**

Leeds URC Partnership AWAY DAY

**Meet and explore how
it's working for you and
our next steps**



**10am – 3pm
Lunch and
refreshments
provided**



**ST LUKE'S
LUTHERAN
CHURCH
9 ALMA ROAD
LS6 2AH**



**The
United
Reformed
Church**

An opportunity to meet with members of the other 8 churches in the Partnership and explore how the Partnership is working for you and our next steps. All are welcome and lunch and refreshments will be provided. Please let Rev Nicola know if you are coming so we know the numbers for catering.



17th Colton Scouts

Pop-up Restaurant

Come and join us for some delicious food cooked and served by our talented Scouts. Choose your date:

Wednesday 14th May or Wednesday 21st May

AT 19:30

Starter:

Summer Canapés

Smoked Salmon Pate, Watermelon and Feta Salad and a Tomato Bruschetta

Main:

Bolognaise Pasta Bake

Mince in a rich tomato sauce, smothering penne pasta and baked with a delicious cheese topping, served with garlic bread.

Vegetarian: Fresh vegetable pasta bake.

Dessert:

Eaton Mess

Lightly whipped cream laced with crushed meringue and fresh berries, topped with a smooth berry compote.

Although we are not a professional kitchen, we will try our best to cater for all dietary requirements. Please ensure that you inform us of any when you book.

This is a pay as you feel charity event to raise money for the 17th Colton Scout Group. All money received will be gratefully appreciated.

You must book your place by emailing Garfield:

janet.gray@leedstemplars.org.uk



CHRIST CHURCH SUMMER FAIR
SATURDAY 7TH JUNE
10AM TO 1PM



Everyone is invited to come along and join us at our Summer Fair to browse the stalls and enjoy some fellowship and a chat over a cup of tea/coffee or juice and a bit of lunch.

Our cake stall is one of the most popular with lots of choices on offer. Browse the stalls and buy plants or jigsaws, have a go at tombola or see what bargains you can pick up on the other stalls.

We look forward to seeing you there!

If you would like a table, then please speak to Yvonne or Sue.

Colton Church Anniversary weekend 5th & 6th July

For our Church Anniversary weekend, we have the opportunity to borrow a number of knitted bible figures, from our friends at Chapel Allerton Methodist Church, to display in scenes from the life of Jesus. We are seeking a small group of people who would be interested in organising the display, which will run alongside a tearoom on the afternoon of Saturday 5th July. Please speak to Kathryn or Elaine as soon as possible if you would like further information or if you are willing to help with any aspect of this.

Our Church Anniversary worship on Sunday 6th July will be led by our minister Revd Becki Stennett at 10.30am, along with Junior Church leaders and young people. It will be all age worship, with the uniformed groups invited and will also include Holy Communion, as this will be the last service that Becki will be leading at Colton prior to her leaving the Circuit. We hope to follow this with a "bring and share" lunch.

Please make a note in your diaries! More details about our Anniversary celebrations will be circulated nearer the time, so keep an eye on the weekly notices and monthly Contact newsletter.

Sharing Fellowship in New Places

“A couple of months ago, I decided that my lunch break on the days I am in the office would be better spent in quiet prayer than sitting at my desk reading the football news online. I found a quiet room, and it was a great way to ‘recharge’ myself for the afternoon ahead, and to remind myself that ‘church me’ and ‘work me’ weren’t two different people!

It's a large workplace, and I wondered whether there might be any other Christians interested in joining me. I ‘publicised’ what I was doing, and persevered with getting the word around, despite a slow start in terms of interest. Now, every Thursday, there's a small group of us, including two people who are just exploring the idea of coming back to faith, meeting for quarter of an hour at lunchtime to hear a short bible passage and share in prayers together. It's wonderful to be able to share this little bit of fellowship and outreach in a new setting, so I thought I'd share the story both to encourage you all in looking for new ways and new places to share your faith, and to ask you to remember our little HSBC prayer group in your own prayers.” - *Andy*

One Sunday morning, the minister announced to his congregation: "I've prepared three sermons...a \$100 sermon that lasts five minutes, a \$50 sermon that lasts fifteen minutes, and a \$10 sermon that lasts a full hour. We'll now take the offering and see which one you've chosen!"

70th Birthday Greetings!

To the wonderful Elaine at Colton Church who celebrates her significant birthday on 11th May. She's the queen of multi-tasking, keeping our building up to scratch, stewarding for all sorts of worship arrangements, playing a key role at our events at Colton, sorting out material for Contact and many other roles. We appreciate all you do and it must be all that hard work that keeps you looking so young! Enjoy all your birthday celebrations. With love and best wishes from all your friends at Colton and Christ Church Halton.



Andy's Fundraising Trek

Andy has just returned from his 96-mile trek across Scotland to raise money for the wonderful Tiny Tickers, who help babies with serious heart conditions – giving them a better start in life and the best possible chance for their future. They work to improve detection rates for cardiac defects in babies, to help families cope, and to place life-saving equipment in maternity units.

There is of course still time to make a much-appreciated donation using the link below:

www.justgiving.com/page/whw25



Beautiful Natural Sameness

Beauty: I have come to realize of late that whenever nature provides for a single type of plant to grow in solid abundance the effect is strikingly beautiful. Not just collections of classically admired plants, for swathes of the same scrubby tree along a roadway are also visually arresting. Even dense clumps of pernicious weeds when standing in uninterrupted flows of the same form and colour present a genuine and compelling pleasure to the human eye - at least to this human eye. For some reason whenever nature gathers a concentrated expression of one of its myriad varieties, beauty arises. Sameness in bountiful natural display seems to reveal a fundamental principle of visual delight. I have yet to see or imagine a single instance of a repetitive collection of human construction - think of an ocean of new cars filling the grounds of a large auto dealership or a shelf at a department store offering identical products - which can lay claim to any sense of soaring beauty at all.

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

Ministers' Farewell Service

Please note that the Farewell Service for Revd George Bailey, Revd Edward Sakwe, Revd Becki Stennett, & Revd Mark Stennett on Sunday 27th July at 4pm, will now be held at Christ Church. This is due to road closures around Lidgett Park Methodist Church due to an event at Roundhay Park on that date.

Family JAM (Jesus and Me) at Colton

Family JAM runs on the fourth Sunday of each month from 4pm to 6pm. Our upcoming sessions are on Sunday 25th May and Sunday 22nd June.



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.

Family Jam 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 and to book a space please let Kathryn or Amanda know at Colton Church, by messaging our Facebook page "Colton Methodist Church, Leeds", popping a note through the church letterbox, or via email: info.coltonchurch@gmx.co.uk.

Colton Dates For Your Diary

- Saturday 10th May 10am to 12 noon: Colton Plant Sale
- Wednesday 14th May immediately after Coffee Morning: Wednesday JAM session
- Sunday 25th May 4pm: Family JAM
- 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: Colton Church Council Meeting at church.

No Mow May

No Mow May is Plantlife's annual campaign urging everyone to pack away their lawn mower to let wildflowers grow freely and help nature. No lawn is too small – even the smallest wild patch can provide vital food needed by bees and butterflies, connecting us to nature and giving us the best start to summer.

Why is this important? Well, since the 1930s, approximately 97% of flower-rich meadows have been lost and with them, vital food and habitat needed by nature. A healthy lawn with some longer grass and wildflowers can help to deliver enormous gains for nature, people and the climate.

Even if you don't have a lawn, please don't write off No Mow May. Encourage wildlife to your outdoor space with a pot or window box and create a mini meadow. See what happens if you leave a pot with bare soil – perhaps local wild plant seeds will find their way in. There are also native seed mixes you can sprinkle into pots which pollinators like bees and butterflies will go wild for!

The Plantlife website is a lovely, rich source of information about how to look after our lawns for nature – and beauty. Visit www.plantlife.org.uk. The links you will find there offer guides to looking after your wild lawn all year round, how to get started, the benefits of having at least two lengths of grass in your garden, the sorts of wildflowers which you could consider encouraging. You'll also find free colouring sheets to download too.

With over 23 million gardens in the UK, even the smallest grassy patches add up to a significant proportion of our land which, if managed properly, can deliver enormous gains for nature, communities and the climate. And who knows, you could even flow into Let it Bloom June and be blooming proud of yourself!!!

Colton Eco Church Team.



Threads through the Bible

Some of you may have had chance to see the work of textile artist Jaqui Parkinson, when her exhibition “Threads through Creation” was on display at Ripon Cathedral. She has now completed ‘Threads through the Cross’ which makes the third part of an extraordinary display of three huge sequences, ‘Threads through Creation’, ‘Threads through the Cross’ and ‘Threads through Revelation’. These three parts are being displayed as one exhibition called “Threads through the Bible” in some parts of the country, but due to its size some venues are only able to display her latest work “Threads through the Cross”. Here are the details of where you can see the different exhibitions during 2025 and 2026:

2025 Exhibition Dates

Threads through the Bible | Creation + Cross + Revelation

6th March – 5th May 2025: Southwell Minster

9th May – 29th June 2025: Ely Cathedral

Threads through the Cross

3rd July – 4th August 2025: Ripon Cathedral

7th August – 22nd September 2025: Sheffield Cathedral

25th September – 3rd November 2025: Guildford Cathedral

2026 Exhibition Dates

Threads through the Bible | Creation + Cross + Revelation

28th January – 1st March 2026: Bath Abbey + St Michaels + St Swithens

8th May – 28th June 2026: Chester Cathedral

2nd July – 31st August 2026: Lincoln Cathedral

For more information go to <https://www.jacqui-textile.com/>

You can also see some of her work on the recent Songs of Praise episode shown on Palm Sunday (available on BBC iplayer!)

**“For we are what he has made us,
created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared
beforehand to be our way of life” – Ephesians 2:10**

Many Happy Returns!

Birthday wishes to Kathryn and Britta who are celebrating in May. Special wishes to Frances who will be celebrating her 50th birthday with a party. Congratulations to all, enjoy your special days!

Next Month's "Contact"

The next edition of Contact will be published on 1 June. Please let Andy have any articles or contributions for next month's issue by **7pm on Tuesday 27 May**. Many thanks.
(andybirkett76@gmail.com or 07952 861316).

Don't forget you can now find a digital edition of Contact online at the Colton and Christ Church pages of the Circuit website.

Thoughts for May

"In every day, there are 1,440 minutes. That means we have 1,440 opportunities to make a positive impact."

"When you finally allow yourself to trust joy and embrace it, you will find you dance with everything."

"When we are no longer able to change a situation, we are challenged to change ourselves."

Colton Church Palm Sunday Feedback

Thank you to everyone who supported our "different" worship on Palm Sunday at Colton Church, using the Susanna's Table project ideas. We'd love to know what you think about it! Do you think we should repeat this format? Do you have any suggestions to improve it? Would you like us to explore other ideas for a different style of worship? If so, please speak to Amanda, David, Elaine or Kathryn.

Christian Aid



Christian Aid has been around for eight decades – I'm sure many of you will remember Collecting door-to-door in our local streets. It's a charity which unites churches across the UK, adding up to be one of the biggest acts of Christian witness in the British Isles.

Fundraising takes place this Christian Aid Week from 11th-17th May, and all money collected goes towards fighting against poverty and injustice. Christian Aid support communities in crisis giving hope for the future.

Christ Church will have an envelope collection on Sunday 11th May, and there will also be an opportunity to find out more and support Christian Aid

by joining us for coffee and cake on Saturday 24th May, between 10am and 11.30 am at Christ Church Halton.

"And where do you think *you've* been?"

Sometimes women are very suspicious of their husbands. When Adam stayed out very late for a few nights, Eve became upset. "You're running around with other women," she said.

"You're being unreasonable," Adam responded. "You're the only woman on earth." The quarrel continued until Adam fell asleep, only to be awakened by someone poking him in the chest. It was Eve.

What do you think you're doing?" Adam demanded.

"Counting your ribs...." said Eve.



Christ Church Halton Guild

SPRING PLANT SALE

Thursday 8th May – 9am – 4.30pm

Friday 9th May – 9am – 4.30pm

Saturday 10th May – 9am – 12.30pm

Plus 2nd hand book stall.

REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE

Proceeds for church funds



Spring Harvest 2025

“This year I was privileged to attend the Spring Harvest Festival at Butlins Skegness, with my daughter Sarah and grandson Thomas, along with members of the Cragg Baptist Church, Horsforth. It was great being amongst a number of young and not-so-young Christians, which brought back memories of youth fellowship of the past at Christ Church. There were lots of inspirational speakers, worship songs, prayers and fellowship, plus good food and great swimming!



A book which was recommended during the weekend was ‘The Greatest Story Ever Told’, written by Bear Grylls as an eye-witness account of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. ‘At times beautiful and harrowing, this is the tale of an impoverished child born into the first century Roman Empires – he grew up to become a renegade teacher who changed the world for ever.’ I found this book compelling, especially as I was reading it through Holy Week. It was a good read which brought the story of Jesus to life, and I can definitely recommend it, especially to those who find it difficult finding their way around the four gospels and the New Testament.”

- Love and prayers, Alison.

CHRIST CHURCH GUILD

Well, another Guild session has come to an end with our Holy Week Service. This was led by Revd Ron Hicks and was very thought-provoking. This followed the AGM the previous week when the officers and members of the Planning Committee were all re-elected. Tony Pickles thanked the committee members for all their efforts in making the Guild function as well as it does and also thanked everyone who attends for their loyal support. Work begins soon on the programme for September, and we have several suggestions for speakers in hand.

The very popular Plant Sale will be held in May, and all are invited for coffee and cakes even if no plants are required. The refreshments double this year as a May coffee afternoon.

We are holding a lunch at Temple Newsam in memory of Patricia Wragg, on Wednesday, 4th June. If you are a Guild member now and have not put your name down, or if you were a member in the past and knew Patricia, you are very welcome to join us. Please let me (0113 2602553) know as soon as possible. Places are limited but there are plenty available at the moment.

Wishing you all a relaxing summer,
Sheila Staveley

“But most of us turn slow to see
The figure hanging on a tree
And stumble on and blindly grope
Upheld by intermittent hope.
God grant before we die, we all
May see the light as did St Paul.”

From “The Conversion of St Paul” by John Betjeman

Tears of Joy

From Our Daily Bread

Leaving home one morning, Dean found some friends waiting with balloons. His friend Josh stepped forward. “We entered your poems in a competition,” he said, before handing Dean an envelope. Inside was a card that read “First Prize,” and soon everyone was crying tears of joy. Dean’s friends had done a beautiful thing, confirming his writing talent.

Weeping for joy is a paradoxical experience. Tears are normally a response to pain, not joy; and joy is normally expressed with laughter, not tears. Italian psychologists have noted that tears of joy come at times of deep personal meaning—like when we feel deeply loved or achieve a major goal. This led them to conclude that tears of joy are pointers to the meaning of our lives.

I imagine tears of joy erupting everywhere Jesus went. How could the parents of the man born blind not weep for joy when Jesus healed him (John 9:1-9), or Mary and Martha after He raised their brother from death (11:38-44)? When God’s people are brought into a restored world, “Tears of joy will stream down their faces,” God says, “and I will lead them home with great care” (Jeremiah 31:9 NLT).

If tears of joy show us the meaning of our lives, imagine that great day to come. As tears stream down our faces, we’ll know without doubt that the meaning of life has always been to live intimately with Him.

When was the last time you wept for joy? What do you think the meaning of life is?

Father God, thank You for the joy ahead for those who love You.

Forthcoming Services at Christ Church

4 May	Rev Rosalind Shelby Holy Communion
11 May	Rev Norma Davey
18 May	Mr John Summerwill
25 May	Rev Nicola Robinson
1 June	Rev Nicola Robinson Holy Communion

Forthcoming Services at Colton

4 May	Mrs Janice Green All-Age Worship
11 May	Mrs Hazel Featherstone
18 May	Rev Steven Jones Holy Communion
25 May	Rev Tanya Short
1 June	Local Arrangement All-Age Worship

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(See Exodus 34)

12-15-2014

THESE WILL NEED TO LAST A WHILE ...
YOU SHOULD PROBABLY JOT THEM DOWN ON
STONE

Church Facebook Pages

Don't forget to
follow Christ
Church and Colton
on Facebook.
Search for 'Christ
Church Halton' and
'Colton Methodist'



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