

# CONTACT

CHRIST CHURCH HALTON  
COLTON METHODIST CHURCH

November 2024



# A Sincere Thank You

From “Our Daily Bread”

In preparation for our son Xavier’s first job interview, my husband, Alan, handed him a pack of thank-you cards for him to send out after he met with prospective employers. He then pretended to be a hiring interviewer, using his decades of

experience as a manager to ask Xavier questions. After the role-playing, our son tucked several copies of his CV into a folder. He smiled when Alan reminded him about the cards. “I know,” he said. “A sincere thank-you note will set me apart from all the other applicants.” When the manager called to hire Xavier, he expressed gratitude for the first hand-written thank-you card he’d received in years.

Saying thanks makes a lasting impact. The psalmists’ heartfelt prayers and grateful worship were preserved in the book of Psalms. Though there are one hundred and fifty psalms, these two verses reflect a message of thankfulness: “I will give thanks to you, Lord, with all my heart; I will tell of all your wonderful deeds. I will be glad and rejoice in you; I will sing the praises of your name, O Most High” (Psalm 9:1–2).

We will never be able to finish expressing our gratitude for all God’s wonderful deeds. But we can start with a sincere thank you through our prayers. We can nurture a lifestyle of grateful worship, praising God and acknowledging all He’s done and all He promises He’ll do.

Unlike other laments (psalms of deep sorrow over for the hardships of life), Psalms 9 and 10 begin with deep confidence and praise to God. Even in the midst of the trials, the author recognises that God has done wonderful things and the proper response is to give thanks, spread the news of those deeds, and rejoice and sing praises to his name (Psalm 9:1-2)

We see in Psalm 9 a lesson in perspective. Not only has God performed grand things like delivering His people from Egypt, sustaining them in the wilderness and giving them the Promised Land, but His deeds are personal as well. God shows His goodness and unfolds His plan in both grand and personal ways.

What would you like to thank God for on this day He’s made? How can writing down prayers of thanks help us cultivate a spirit of gratitude in all circumstances?

## **Guild Programme for November:**

**Nov 5th: Wildlife Photography** Colin Eadon presents a collection of photos from across the UK.

**Nov 12th: Pastel Artist** Russel Bowe demonstrates his skill with this particular medium.

**Nov 19th: The Cancer Support Group** Hazel Featherstone introduces her work with this local group.

**Nov 26th: The Fisherman's Mission Past and Present** What life was like for deep sea fishermen and their families.

### **Christ Church Christmas Shoe Boxes**

Covered Christmas shoe boxes are now available at Christ Church, ready to fill with gifts. Please return your box to church by Sunday 1 December. They will go to Meeting Point Café, where they will be distributed to children in the area on Wednesday 4 December, when Concordia will be singing carols.

## **Harvest thanks from Colton**

Thank you to everyone who supported our Harvest Coffee Morning when lots of cuppas were served and cakes eaten! It was also great to see a full house for our Harvest Festival Service on the Sunday, well attended by the uniform groups and many folks from Garforth Methodist Church joining us. A good time of fellowship was had after the service when we shared a meal together.

Monetary donations from the weekend events made a grand total of £501.01 to be sent to All We Can. Over 200 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 for your continued generosity, a great team effort!

“How sad would be November if we had no knowledge of the spring.”  
– Edwin Way Teale

## Christ Church Halton Guild

October has been a very busy month for the Guild. Our weekly meetings have been well attended and the speakers excellent. Our pharmacologist, Abel Kubare, brought with him some of his own fan club and it was quite a job to fit them into the room!

The **plant sale** is always very dependent on the weather and forecasts prior to the sale we're not good. The Friday turned out to be a sunny autumn day, but not so much Saturday which brought light rain and was a little on the cool side. Nevertheless some hardy souls stood outside with the stall. Sales of plants was rather slow but refreshments went down very well on both days. We made a total of £784.50, roughly the same as last year.

The **concert** on the 26th October was equally successful. David Twizzle, accompanied by Lynne Staveley sang to a comfortably full Church. This is the first time we have just had a soloist, usually it has been a choir, but David gave us a wonderful hour of entertainment with songs new and old and a good sense of humour. Proceeds from this event were £336.70.

The money from both these events will go to church funds.

Sunday 27th October was our 64th **Guild Anniversary**. Rev Ruth Crompton conducted our service. Ruth and her husband Gerald are former members of the Guild. Ruth retired two years ago as a Superintendent Minister and they now live near Thirsk. Following the service 30 members went to Garforth Golf Club for an excellent lunch.

A big thank you to all who participated in any (or all) of these events.

- *Peter Grubb, Co President with Tony Pickles.*

(See next page for the November programme)

## The Church Steeple

The church steeple on the old church is very high and was being painted on a rather hot day. The painter was about half way down and, as the steeple was widening out, was taking more paint. The painter felt that he might not have enough paint to finish. Since he was hot and tired, and did not care to make another trip to the ground, he decided to stretch the amount of paint by adding some paint thinner to it. When finished, he lowered himself to the ground and went about cleaning up. Then he looked up to see the results of his work and noted that the area with the thinned paint looked decidedly different.

He was pondering about what to do about it when the sky turned dark and there was a lightning flash and loud thunderclap. Then in a loud, booming voice from the sky came the words, "REPAINT AND THIN NO MORE!"

## Family Jam – Jesus And Me

Our final Family JAM session for 2024 will be held on Sunday 24th November from 4pm to 6pm. 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 help with catering please let us know how many people would like to come and if you have any allergies/dietary requirements. You can let Elaine or Kathryn know at church, by messaging the Colton Methodist Church Leeds Facebook page, by popping a note through the church letterbox, or via email ([info.coltonchurch@gmx.co.uk](mailto:info.coltonchurch@gmx.co.uk))

# The Poppy

Submitted by Dorothy Davies

I am not a badge of honour,  
I am not a racist smear,  
I am not a fashion statement to be worn but once a year,  
I am not glorification of conflict or of war,  
I am not a paper ornament  
A token  
I am more.  
I am a loving memory of a father or a son,  
I am a permanent reminder  
Of each and every one.  
I am paper or enamel  
I am old or shining new,  
I'm a way of saying Thank You  
To everyone of you.  
I am a simple poppy  
A reminder to you all,  
That courage, faith and honour,  
Will stand where heroes fall.



## Colton dates for your diary



**Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> November 10.30am:** All Age Worship and Parade Service for Remembrance Sunday, joining in the National Act of Remembrance at 11am.

**Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December 6pm:** Christingle Service led by Colton Rainbows and Brownies.

**Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> December 3pm:** Carol Service at Colton Church (no worship at Colton in the morning).

## Healing

In this quiet place where dreams are made  
and memories fill the mind.  
The peace instils it fills the space  
and time stands still, with saving grace.

And in this lovely place  
a space for hope and wishes  
plans are made, truth is found  
slowly, gently, contentment wraps around.

For solace is needed for the soul  
For the spirit to discover  
And the mind to understand  
A loving thought is a healing hand.

*Pauline Hardman*

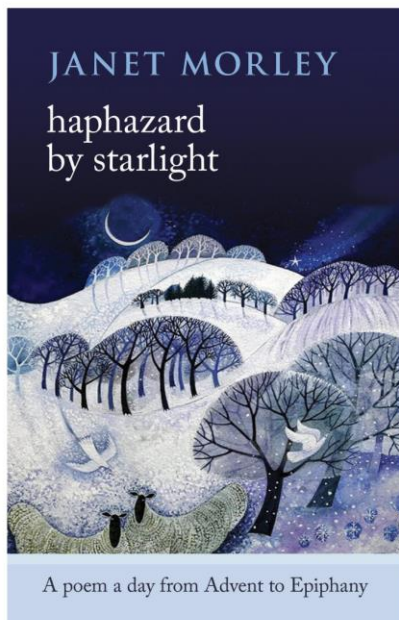
## Natures Circle

A dusky evening follows on,  
From the soft glow of day.  
A gentle breeze whispers,  
Through the wooded land.  
The trees gently tinkling,  
As they shed their autumn dress,  
Handing it over to the earth.  
Richer the land will be.  
Such an array of colours,  
Warms the heart.

*Pauline Hardman*



# Haphazard by Starlight: Advent Gatherings



A  
time for  
reflection and  
discussion  
over four  
weeks, led by the  
Leeds URC  
Partnership  
Ministry Team

**Beginning on:**

**Tuesday** 26 November 2:15pm, West Park URC, Spen Lane,  
LS16 5BB

**Wednesday** 27 November 10:45am, Beeston Hill Church,  
Malvern Road, LS11 8PD

**Thursday** 28 November 7:30pm, on Zoom

For more information,  
email: [revnicola.robinson@gmail.com](mailto:revnicola.robinson@gmail.com)





## Colton Eco-Church



The Eco Church group met on 15th October. We discussed and agreed a proposed action plan to take our Eco-Church ambition forward.

Together we came up with a list of ideas for 'quick wins' and longer-term plans under the Eco-Church headings of Worship & Teaching, Buildings, Land, Community & Global engagement and Lifestyle. We looked for lots of ideas and activities for everyone to feel comfortable in getting involved with, their way. Our Colton Brownies are already leading the way as they work towards their Zero Waste badge by making clothes for their teddies out of things which would normally have been thrown away. They sent us a lovely long list of ideas to help us on our Eco-Church journey – Thank You, Brownies!

Our proposed plan will be taken to the Colton Church Council meeting in November, and if (when?!) signed off, we'll offer more information in future Contact issues, as well as on the Eco-Church notice board of course.

Our next meeting will be in the new year – we'll send out the date nearer the time. In the meantime, check out our list of top tips for a greener Christmas elsewhere in this month's Contact.

### **Remembrance Sunday 10th November at Colton**

As last year, we will be holding an all-age worship and parade service at Colton on Remembrance Sunday at the normal time of 10.30am. This means the previous week (3rd November) will not be all age worship, so Junior Church will meet at their usual time that day.

## **Christmas Fair @ Christ Church**

### **Saturday 7 December**



Can you help us with our Christmas Fair? Roger would like donations of chocolate for his long-running and now world-famous tombola. Jean is organising a non-chocolatey tombola and would welcome donated gifts as prizes. Meanwhile if you're a budding Great British Bake-Off contestant, Sonia and Maria would love to sell your cakes on their stall, so dust off your apron. Thank you!

## **Eco Top Tips – Have a greener Christmas!**

There are lots of ways to have a greener Christmas and we know that many of us are already making our plans. Here are some tips to help us to reduce waste and eliminate single use items:

- As you're getting your decorations out of the loft, rather than throwing away anything in need of repair from last year, why not take it to the Cross Gates Repair Café? Our skilled friends may well be able to work their magic and repair your decorations for you.
- Reuse decorations and store them carefully at the end of the season so that they can be used again and again.
- Think about alternative ways to wrap any gifts and only use FSC certified, foil free and glitter free wrap. How about using fabric instead, which can be reused over and over?
- Use string made from natural fibres (e.g. sisal, jute, hemp, henequen, coir and cotton) and only use recycled cotton and paper-based Sellotape.
- Choose solar powered lights or LED options and store them carefully for next year.
- Avoid crackers. There are some more environmentally friendly cracker options available but are they really necessary? (I can hear the chorus of 'Bah! Humbug!!')
- Make use of all the wonderful natural products that we have in our gardens and parks to decorate our homes and churches with.

### **Beatitudes for Friends of the Aged**

Blessed are they who understand  
My faltering steps and palsied hand.  
Blessed are they who know that my ears today  
Must strain to catch the things they say.  
Blessed are they who seem to know  
That my eyes are dimmed and my wits are slow.  
Blessed are they who looked away  
When coffee spilled at the table today.  
Blessed are they with a cheery smile  
Who stop to chat for a little while.  
Blessed are they who never say  
“You’ve told that story twice today”.  
Blessed are they who know the ways  
To bring back memories of yesterdays.  
Blessed are they who make it known  
That I’m loved, respected and not alone.  
Blessed are they who know I’m at a loss  
To find the strength to carry the cross.  
Blessed are they who ease the days  
Of my journey home in loving ways.

*Anon, submitted by Dorothy Davies*

### **Christmas giveaways at Colton**

You may remember  
that in previous  
years during  
Advent, we've given  
out knitted angels,  
mini-Christmas  
Jumpers and stars,  
that have been  
made by members  
of our congregation.

They've made their  
way on to Christmas  
trees in houses  
around Colton and  
the surrounding  
area. This year,  
thanks to a great  
idea from Wendy,  
we'd like to give out

some bells made out of felt, complete with a chime! If you'd like to have a go at making a few please see Dorothy or Kathryn for further details. A template will be provided along with materials to make them if required. Wendy has already made some examples to help us on our way! We hope to have some ready to give out at our Toy Service and other events during Advent.

When a woman's husband walked out in the middle of the sermon, she apologised to the preacher after the service. "I hope you didn't take it personally", she said. "Well, I was worried for a moment," replied the preacher. "It wasn't out of disrespect for you", said the churchgoer, "Bill has been walking in his sleep ever since he was a child".



## **Colton Methodist Church Christmas Fair Saturday 23rd November 10am to 1pm**

You are warmly invited to Colton's Christmas Fair, where you will find a number of craft stalls from local businesses as well as other stalls including a raffle, Christmas theme tombola, £1 stall, tabletop games and the ever-popular cake and a cuppa! The Christmas train will be running once again, and we'll also have some live flute music throughout the event.



In addition to coming along on the day there are a number of other 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
- Donating pre-loved novels, children's books or jigsaws (all pieces present please!) which can be brought to church from Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> November onwards
- Donate unwanted gifts for us to sell on the £1 stall, use as raffle prizes at the fair or for use at subsequent events
- Donate items for our Christmas theme tombola e.g. chocolate, Christmas decorations, Christmas themed puzzles or small toys etc.
- Help with distributing flyers & posters before the event

If you'd like any more information or can offer help, please speak to Kathryn or Elaine at Colton. Thanks, in anticipation of your support!



### **Christ Church – Our Final Table-Top Sale**

Please come and support our final table-top sale which takes place on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> November. After this month, the sale is taking an extended break until further notice, so don't miss your last opportunity to check out the bargains on offer.

## **Messy Church**

This month, Christ Church opens the doors to Messy Church on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> November, from 2-4pm. Last month, we had around 20 kids and their families, all hearing the story of four men who were desperate to get their friend to Jesus to be healed, and we thought about how we care for our friends and they care for us. Want to know what's in store this month? You'll just have to come and join us! All ages welcome, children must be accompanied by an adult. Pay as you feel able, but we suggest a donation of £1 per child. Fun, games, stories, food, singing – what better way to spend a Saturday afternoon?

## **Kathleen Hodgson 1938 – 2024**

“My Mum passed away peacefully after a difficult but mercifully short period of illness. A huge thank you to Revds Nicola and Edward and friends and family for all your prayers, cards and support over these last few weeks. It has been hard and stressful and obviously we are heartbroken to lose such a special mum, grandma and great grandma but we can find comfort in knowing that we could all visit her and she can suffer no more and rest in peace. We are surrounded by His love and strength to go forward, and at the same time reflect on some happy memories and a life well lived.”

- *Helen Lappage*

### **WE DO NOT BECOME DISCOURAGED – 2 Corinthians 4:16-18**

“Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.”

## Forthcoming Services at Christ Church

- 3 November      Mrs Susan Howdle (10.30am)  
  
Rev Nicola Robinson (3.00pm)  
Pet Blessing Service
- 10 November    Mr John Summerwill  
(Remembrance Sunday)
- 17 November    Rev Nicola Robison  
Holy Communion
- 24 November    Rev Edward Sakwe
- 1 December      Miss Mary Patchett

Christ Church

### CHRISTMAS FAIR

**SATURDAY 7th DECEMBER 10AM TO 1PM**

Come along and browse the stalls, tombola, cakes,  
Christmas decorations, chocolate tombola, jigsaws,  
bric-a-brac, plants, stationery and much more.



*Also enjoy refreshments and lunch served  
with a warm welcome!*

## **Forthcoming Services at Colton**

- |             |  |
|-------------|--|
| 3 November  | Mr Richard Vautrey   |
| 10 November | Rev Becki Stennett<br>All-Age Worship & Parade Service                               |
| 17 November | Mrs Catherine Frieze   |
| 24 November | Rev Becki Stennett<br>10.30am – Holy Communion<br>4.00pm – Family JAM (Jesus and Me) |
| 1 December  | Mr Grenville Jensen<br>All-Age Parade and Toy Service                                |

### **Toy Service at Colton Methodist Church**

#### **Sunday 1st December 10.30am (All-Age Worship & Parade)**

At our Toy Service at Colton, led by Grenville Jensen, we will collect 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.

### **NEXT MONTH'S "CONTACT"**

The next edition of Contact will be published on 1 December, and will cover **December and January**.

Please let Andy have any articles or contributions for this double issue by 7pm on Tuesday 26 November. Many thanks.  
andybirkett76@gmail.com or 07952 861316.



(See Genesis 37:3-36)

05-05-2014

JOSEPH!!!

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