

CONTACT

CHRIST CHURCH HALTON
COLTON METHODIST CHURCH

September 2025



Nicola's Letter

Like the natural world, where we have the seasons of Spring, Summer, Autumn and Winter, our church year is made up of seasons. We begin with Advent, followed by Christmas, leading into Epiphany, Lent, Easter and so on.

The Season of Creation is marked by many different churches across the world in September. This year as we approach the Season of Creation, in the midst of heatwaves, wildfires and droughts, we have been made acutely aware of how essential it is for us to take appropriate steps to acknowledge and respond to the climate crisis.

The theme for the Season of Creation 2025 is: "Peace with Creation." The word in the Bible for peace is "shalom" which is about 'wholeness, integration, completeness, everything moving together in dynamic harmony.' Shalom is the message of Jesus, sometimes referred to as the 'kingdom of God', and it should be our message too.

As one of my favourite theologians, Diana Butler Bass states:

'God created this luminous web of creation — and we are part of it. When we strain it, abuse it, violate it, or break it, there's a response. That's part of the way things are. We are not separate from creation or above it. We are within it. Our actions — like cutting down trees — have consequences on our very lives.'



Each and every one of us is called into companionship with Creation. This calling inspires us all to pray and act for a better future for all that is living: sunflowers and cockapoos, oak trees and caterpillars and so much more.

So, with this in mind, please do get in touch with images and words about your favourite part of Creation. We'll collate them all into one big, wonderful Creation collage which can be displayed to show our compassion and commitment.

In peace,
Nicola

ANew

by Pauline Hardman

A mellow September
with a sunset sublime.
Gentle evenings
to enjoy your own time.
Space to contemplate
the rush of summer,
of fairs and events
and the hot sunny weather.
Every season has beauty
that become its own
and mother nature adapts
and changes her gown.
We move on renewed
with September reflections
giving thanks for our time
and Gods love and grace.

Christ Church Dates for Your Diary

AGM 14th Sept: We'll have the usual morning service and coffee, with the AGM starting at 12pm, followed by a soup and sweet lunch. All welcome to join and be updated on what is happening in your Church. Please sign up on the list in the vestibule if you intended to come as this will help us to know how many to cater for.

Harvest service 28th Sept: Our Harvest gifts of food will be shared between Meeting Point Cafe and our local Food Bank. Any monetary gifts will be sent to Meeting Point. Please give as you are able, as donations are very much needed at this time for both these worthy causes.



Harvest Festival Weekend

@

Colton Methodist Church
October 4th & 5th

Saturday 4th – Harvest Coffee Morning 10am to 12 noon

We will be serving coffee, tea, juice and a selection of cakes.

Come and enjoy some refreshments & take a look at our Harvest display.

Sunday 5th – Harvest Festival @ 10.30am

All Age worship - Members of Colton's uniformed groups will be joining us as well.

Monetary donations would be welcome on either day for All We Can (the Methodist Relief and Development Fund). If you would like to make a donation of food items, packet or tinned goods will be welcome so they can be donated to the local Foodbank or Meeting Point Café. These can be brought to the coffee morning or Sunday service.



Colton Methodist Church,
Leeds'



The Good Shepherd

By Gordon Tellam

This poem was written by a good friend of Frank Ireland. Gordon and his wife are both now sadly deceased, and Frank wanted to share this poem in Contact in Gordon's memory.

The fold had settled for the night, the sheep so snug and warm
seemed happy and contented, secure from wind and storm,
and yet, the Shepherd was aware –
one of His charges was not there.

He made his count but could not find this single missing sheep
and knew that He must once again dismiss all thoughts of sleep
and face the weather wet and cold
to bring his sheep back to the fold.

He knew that He would have to search mountain, moor and field,
these thoughts did not deter Him, He was their only shield,
their only hope, their only friend,
on Him alone they could depend.

After what seemed an endless search, His efforts were repaid,
so happy was the Shepherd in gratitude He prayed,
and stooped and lifted from the ground
the precious one that He had found.

He made His way back to the fold, His loved one in His arms
never again to wander off now safe from all alarms.
In memory of this these words we keep
"Rejoice for I have found my Sheep" (Luke 15:4-6)





Colton Eco Church

As we move into autumn and appreciate once again the beauty the changing season brings us, there are lots of ways for us to think about how we can play our part in looking after our wonderful world. Here are just a few things to get involved with this month.

Second-hand September is a campaign led by Oxfam to encourage people to buy only second-hand items for the whole of the month.

Oxfam says 'When a new pair of jeans is made, an estimated 16.2kg of carbon dioxide is emitted – the equivalent of driving over 58 miles in a car. So by recirculating our clothes – buying, wearing, and donating second-hand – we can help to reduce the demand for new clothes. And this could in turn help to reduce the damage to our planet.'

Is this something you could pledge to do this month?

The Great British Beach Clean (Friday 19th – Sunday 28th Sept) encourages thousands of people across the UK to head to the coast to help clean up our beaches. Hundreds of beach cleans take place up and down the UK and data from the litter collected is fed through to the Marine Conservation Society to inform the work they do.

How about heading to the East Coast and getting involved with the following Beach Cleans:

- Scarborough North Bay 23rd Sept 1.30pm – 3.30pm
- Cayton Bay 24th Sept noon – 1.00pm

There are lots more to join in with - to find out more and get involved in other Beach Cleans visit www.mcsuk.org/what-you-can-do/

Fairtrade Fortnight (Monday 22nd Sept – Sunday 5th October) celebrates the farmers and workers who grow the world's food, promotes Fairtrade and the difference we can all make when we choose Fairtrade. This is a principle which Colton's Eco Team are committed to achieving whenever we can.

To find out more about Fairtrade and how you can make a difference visit www.fairtrade.net/uk-en/get-involved



'God Welcomes All: How faith informs safeguarding' – A Study Guide

God Welcomes All is a **four-session study guide** containing new short films with activities and questions for discussion and reflection. The new study guide encourages all members of the Methodist Church to look at our Christian calling that offers a welcome to all, whilst ensuring that our worship and wider church life is safe for everyone.

At Oakwood Church, Tuesdays 7-8.30pm

**On 7th, 21st, 28th October and 11th
November**



Sunday Stewards and other volunteer roles at Colton Methodist Church



A report was taken to the July Church Council about creating the role of Sunday Steward separate to that of Church Steward. The aim of this is to attract additional volunteers, specifically to facilitate Sunday worship and to spread the workload of those undertaking the role of church steward, which in addition to stewarding for Sunday worship carries responsibility for governance and leadership of the church. This part of the role of Church Steward has increased considerably due to various policies, procedures and other administrative work that we now need to deal with.

Church Council have agreed to the introduction of the proposed new role as well as agreeing the role descriptions for Sunday and Church Stewards. Dorothy Davies and Jenny Mullins have now been appointed to the new Sunday Steward role, but we would love to hear from anyone else who may be interested in this new role. Role descriptions for both the Sunday Steward and Church Steward roles are available on the Church Information moveable board and please let us know if you would like a copy.

We would also like to hear from anyone who is willing to join the rota for other volunteer roles such as Sunday coffee, welcome stewards, cash counters and Bible readers during worship. This might then free up those who would like to be considered for the role of Sunday Steward but currently feel unable to do so, due to other tasks.

If you'd like to explore any of the above roles or find out more before you commit to anything please have a chat with one of us.

With thanks in anticipation!

Elaine Preston & Kathryn Glasby (Senior Church Stewards)

Christ Church Halton Table-Top Sale Saturday 18th October 10 am- 12 noon

Yes, it's back! This date coincides with the final morning of the Guild Plant Sale, and we hope to raise much-needed funds to keep our church and its building available to our local community.

We already have a number of external bookings but tables are still available at £10 (£5 if the stall is in aid of a designated charity).

We have 3 Church-run stalls – Nearly New, Bric-a-brac and a Tombola for which the donation of prizes will be much welcome – please no alcohol or high value items.

Offers of help on our Bric-a-brac stall would be welcomed by Joyce Rudge. Tombola items can be brought to church at Saturday coffee or Sunday worship.

Tea, and coffee will be served as usual on a pay as you feel basis but there will be a price list for cakes, gateaux and hot sandwiches.

Colton Girlguiding News – Update from the Colton Girlguiding Leaders Team

A New Unit Is Opening in Colton! We're thrilled to share some exciting news—a brand new Girlguiding unit is launching in Colton from September 2025! This change will help us welcome more girls and support them throughout their Guiding journey, from Rainbows all the way to Guides.

Why Are We Doing This? Our Rainbow and Brownie units are currently full, and demand continues to grow. After lots of discussion and planning, we're excited to announce that from September 2025, we will be running three Girlguiding units in Colton to help more girls stay in the movement they love. These changes will ensure smoother transitions between sections and offer more places to local girls

What will this look like?

Rainbows – Meet Weekly
Brownies – Meet fortnightly
Guides – Meet fortnightly



Margaret Stevenson Remembered

“On Monday 21st July, our family said goodbye to our much-loved mum, Margaret Stevenson.

We would like to thank the church family for their presence at the funeral service and for the support and comfort through messages and cards during what has been a difficult time for us.

I generally don't single out individuals, but I feel on this occasion that is what mum would have done. To Helen and Martin for your support and organisation to ensure everything ran smoothly. To Joan and Alison for the coffee and tea and arranging the beautiful cupcakes on the cake stands and of course doing the washing up. To Denise for the flowers, a lovely touch and beautifully arranged, and to Thelma for playing the organ. It was a fitting tribute.

It is going to be hard without our mum, but as Rev Edward said “she has gone to Paradise Street” I loved this sentiment, so whenever I have a sad moment I will think of her there.



Your prayers, love and kindness have brought us great comfort and will always be remembered.”

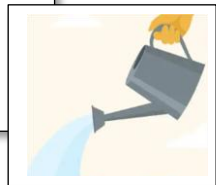
Thank you
Dawn & Mark

Congratulations Nicola!

Reverend Nicola has recently completed her “Education for Ministry 2” training, following a really positive review from the Synod Moderator, Training and Development Officer and her Pastoral Mentor. This means Nicola now moves into the third stage, the lifelong learning phase for URC ministers. Well done Nicola, and thank you for your ministry at Christ Church, so dearly valued by us all.

“And God, who supplies seed for the sower and bread to eat, will also supply you with all the seed you need and will make it grow and produce a rich harvest from your generosity.”

2 Corinthians:9-10



Family JAM (Jesus and Me) at Colton

Family JAM runs on the fourth Sunday of each month from 4pm to 6pm. Our next session will be on Sunday 28th September, led by our new Minister, Revd Janet.



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.

HANDY HOUSEHOLD HINTS

- Fold and store bedding inside a pillowcase – it keeps it tidy and you'll never have to hunt for a matching set again.
- Use a dry rubber glove to get cat or dog hair off soft furnishings.
- Snip herbs with scissors, it's much easier than chopping using a knife.
- Pop a bit of kitchen towel in a bag of lettuce or herbs – it absorbs the excess moisture and keeps them crisp and fresh for ages.
- Buy a soft toothbrush to spot-clean marks on clothes and shoes.



WOW

(WAKEFIELD ORCHESTRAL WIND)

JOIN US FOR A MUSICAL AFTERNOON
CELEBRATING THE 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF
VE DAY

COLTON METHODIST CHURCH
2PM TO 4PM

ON SATURDAY
OCTOBER 18TH

Tickets in advance **£7** (to include
refreshments savoury and sweet), children
go free. Contact:

Elaine tel 07760 737515 or
David tel 0113 2253894 for tickets.

Ticket proceeds to be shared between the
orchestra and Colton Church.



Colton Dates for Your Diary



Sunday 28th September: Family JAM 4pm to 6pm.

Saturday 4th & Sunday 5th October: Harvest Festival weekend (see
separate item in Contact for more details)

Saturday 18th October: WOW Concert (see separate item)

Saturday 22nd November: Christmas Fair. More details to follow.

Sunday 30th November: Joint worship at Christ Church Halton,
10.30am

Prince Ofori-Kuragu (Colton Junior Church)

At the beginning of the summer holidays, one of our young members, Prince, had an idea to launch a product to bring joy to others and to help him meet his goal of making some money to purchase a new iPad, to replace the one he's had for 4 years that was broken. He wanted to buy the new tablet as a gift to himself for his 12th birthday in the middle of August, instead of asking his parents for a new one.

Prince didn't know that his parents had already planned to give him a new iPad for his birthday anyway. They went along with his idea, and his mum, Britta, helped him to create and launch his new product -- the Fun Fidget Pro, a 3D-printed spiral fidget toy, which he sold through a pop-up shop at a business event in Bradford and through his Etsy online shop. He also delivered flyers about his product and goal through doors in the Colton neighbourhood.

Prince was pleasantly surprised and very grateful to receive a new tablet from his family on his birthday, as he was not expecting it at all. In his mind, he was going to keep selling his product until he made enough profit to buy one.

Prince and his family wish to sincerely thank everyone who has supported his venture so far and for the great feedback from both children and adults on how much joy the fidget toy has brought to them, helped to release stress and anxiety, kept hands busy and helped to improve focus. Prince's Fun Fidget Pro is still available in his Etsy shop with a special neighbourhood offer, which includes a great discount and free delivery using discount code: 'LOCALLOVE'. To access his Etsy online shop, visit **www.etsy.com/shop/PassionatelyPrince**.

Prince has donated some of his toys to some children's activities in Manchester over the summer and is looking to donate some more to causes and charities that support underprivileged / vulnerable children in some parts of Leeds very soon.



Thank you so much for your support.

A Meeting without Words

On this late August morning, humid with showers, I meet our neighbour, a retired farmer with well-advanced Alzheimer's disease, out for his daily walk. How he finds his way to and from the family farmhouse each day is a mystery to me. He always offers a broad smile and strong handshake but the disease leaves him unable to say anything in response to my greeting. Apparently glad to see me he has no idea who I am. He is known in our rural community for having written some lovely and laudable poetry. We part. He wanders away clutching his walking stick, already forgetting I ever existed. Such moments remind me that though language is essential to human connection yet some human meaning may be found beyond the mere exchange of words.

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

Repairs at Colton

Thank you to all who have supported Colton church raising funds for the essential Repair and Renew Fund. We have now had the big job of the drains being replaced and the large central drain cleared of three bags of debris in the car park. The contractors (MMDrainage, owners Mick and Jim, tel 07762754178 or 07908987539) have done an excellent job. We are hoping to apply for a grant to assist with the cost.

The rolling programme of decorating has been completed and the three boilers serviced (thankfully they are all okay!) A new back door has of course also been fitted. The church is like our own homes – things wear out or need replacing on an ongoing basis, plus there's general upkeep. Thank you as well to all who have



helped in any way with cleaning the church during the summer. Support for our fundraising events is very much appreciated, and you'll find details of future events elsewhere in this edition of Contact.

THE HUB CANCER SUPPORT GROUP

OPEN MORNING and FUNDRAISER

Monday 6th October 2025

11am - 1pm

Cross Gates Methodist Church

(Rear entrance – Wesley Room)

Cakes, preserves, tombola and raffle

Refreshments - sandwiches, cakes, tea, and coffee

Proceeds to the Cancer Hub
and Macmillian Cancer care

2025 Harvest Festival Weekend **at Colton Methodist Church**

Saturday 4th October – Harvest Coffee Morning
10.30am to 12 noon

We will be serving coffee/tea/juice and a selection of cakes and savoury scones. Come and enjoy some refreshments and take a look at our Harvest display. There will also be a raffle.

Sunday 5th October – Harvest Festival at 10.30am

Led by Mrs Naomi Polson
All Age worship and Parade service

Monetary donations would be welcome on either day for All We Can (*the Methodist Relief and Development Fund*). If you would like to make a donation of food items, we would appreciate packet or tinned goods so they can be donated to the local food bank or Meeting Point Café. These can be brought to the coffee morning or to Sunday worship.

Christ Church Halton Guild

We are standing at the door of a new session – our 66th. In the first half, September to December, we have some excellent speakers arranged, beginning with Professor Peter Howdle, on Tuesday, 9th September at 7.30pm. Peter was a Professor at Leeds University and worked at the LGL. He was also Vice President of the Methodist Conference. The remainder of the programme can be seen in the brochure, which is available in Church or by contacting those listed at the foot of this article. Please feel free to invite any friends who might be interested. The suggested weekly donation remains at £2, which covers the cost of speakers, (when a fee is requested – not all do) tea and biscuits and sometimes more. If this is difficult, pay what you can.

Autumn is always a busy time for the Guild, with the Plant Sale on Friday 17th October, 9am – 4.30pm and Saturday 18th October, 9am – 12.30pm. We will need extra help this year in setting up at 8.30am on both mornings and in clearing away at the end of each day. Please come along if you can help. All proceeds from this go to support the maintenance of the Church.

The 25th-26th October is our Anniversary Weekend. At 3pm on the Saturday there will be a concert by the Dalehurst Trio followed by afternoon tea. This is limited to 60 people, so don't be disappointed, get your tickets as soon as they come out. On the Sunday we have a service at 10.30am led by Rev'd Norma Davey and a lunch at the Garforth Golf Club, a well-trying and tested venue. That's just the first two months!

The success of the Guild is always dependent on members supporting arrangements as well as they are able. No-one will be pressed to do anything they find difficult or are uncomfortable with, but this increases a sense of fellowship and mutual support, something much needed in these difficult times.

Peter Grubb (0113 2646046), Co-President with Tony Pickles
(0113 2600844)
Secretary – Sheila Staveley (0113 2602553)

Find details of our September programme in the centre pages

Colton Church Anniversary 5th and 6th July

Thank you to all who contributed in any way to the Anniversary weekend at Colton. The displays were wonderful, and grateful thanks go to Chapel Allerton Church for the loan of the figures depicting the life of Jesus.

Much of the initial set up on the Friday was making organisation out of the chaos, with displays taking over the vestry, cakes arriving in the kitchen, tablecloths found and spread, and the important Risk Assessment completed. Saturday arrived – a slow start to proceedings but people then continued to arrive throughout the afternoon, with numerous cakes, scones and drinks consumed.

On Sunday, Becki's final service was a triumph of organisation. One wonders how often All Age Worship, Parade and Holy Communion are held together in one service – well it worked! Singing, worship and communion with some interesting questions being posed by members of the congregation.

With the service over, gifts and cards were presented to Revd Becki with thanks for her boundless energy and support in her time with us. A final joint lunch shared by those who could stay rounded off a wonderful busy weekend.....and importantly, the sun shone! Thank you to all who made this event a memorable occasion.

Bradford City of Culture – Methodist Art

As part of the Bradford City of Culture 2025 celebrations, this Autumn, five venues in the Bradford District will be exhibiting artworks held in the Methodist Modern Art Collection (MMAC).

The exhibitions run until Sunday 12th October. Whilst they all will have their own theme, they're linked via an Art Trail and the overall theme for the exhibition, "Everything is Connected". The venues are Ben Rhydding Methodist Church, Bradford Cathedral, South Square Centre and St James Church in Thornton, and Woodhouse Grove School Chapel.

For more details, visit www.ywmethodist.org.uk/bradford2025/

Forthcoming Services at Christ Church

7 September	Rev Janet Titterton Holy Communion
14 September	Rev Nicola Robinson
21 September	Mr John Summerwill
28 September	Rev Geoff Ellis Harvest Festival
5 October	Mrs Hazel Featherstone Church Anniversary

Christ Church Guild – September Programme

Sep 9th – Opening Up – We welcome Professor Peter Howdle, local preacher and former Vice-President of the Methodist Conference, to open our 66th session.

Sep 16th – Preserve your Memories - Malcolm Johnson returns with a selection of top five singles from the 1960s, with a reminder about what was happening at that time.

Sep 23rd – Sayings from the Sea – Mike Turpin looks at life in the Navy at the time of the Napoleonic Wars and how this has influenced our everyday expressions.

Sep 30th – Six of the Best – Lesley Newnham speaks about six Yorkshire men/women and the mark they left on society.

You'll find a full summary of Guild news elsewhere in this month's Contact.

Forthcoming Services at Colton

7 September	Mr Andy Birkett All-Age Worship
14 September	Rev Janet Titterton Holy Communion
21 September	Mr Tom Ferguson
28 September	Mr Grenville Jensen
5 October	Mrs Naomi Polson All-Age Parade Service/Harvest Festival

Next Month's "Contact"

The next edition of Contact will be published on 5 October. Please let Andy have any articles or contributions for next month's issue by **7pm on Tuesday 30 September**. 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.

There are two types of people in the world – those who wake up and say "good morning Lord!", and those who say "good Lord, it's morning!"

A father was reading a Bible story to his young son. He read, "The man named Lot was warned to take his wife and flee out of the city, but his wife looked back and was turned to salt." His son asked, "What happened to the flea?"



Who to contact

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	Shirley Dann (Colton)	0113 2820828 colton.mcbookings@outlook.com
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