

# CONTACT

CHRIST CHURCH HALTON  
COLTON METHODIST CHURCH

July & August 2024



## Nicola's Letter

Dear friends,

I start with a wee admission. I'm a big fan of 'To do' lists. Especially when it is colour-coded in rainbow colours. There's something really satisfying about being able to tick off items when they are complete.

When I was training for ministry, I remember one close mentor telling/warning me that: 'in ministry, the 'to do list' never ends.' Another experienced minister, recently expressed to me: 'at the end of the week throw out your 'to do list', God doesn't mind that every task may not be finished. Then rest and make a new one.'

Turning to the Bible, Exodus 20: 8-10 which reads: *"Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. Six days you shall labour and do all your work. But the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God."*

In this context, the Israelites are encouraged to observe the SABBATH, which means work or activity and rest are recognised as part of a symbiotic relationship. The word Sabbath extends beyond rest and comes from the Hebrew 'shabbat' which means 'stop', 'cease', 'be complete'. Indeed, sabbath is not simply the absence of work or activity but incorporates an holistic way of living and recognising and experiencing the presence of God.

One of the key ways that I nourish my relationship with God as well as find rest and refreshment is walking: in the hills, in the woods or by the sea with Maisie. For me, it is in these locations where God feels so palpably close and I am intimately interconnected with all living beings. The words of Wendell Berry resonate strongly: *"Sabbath observance invites us to stop. It invites us to rest. It asks us to notice that while we rest, the world continues without our help. It invites us to delight in the world's beauty and abundance."*

I wonder, what ways do you stop and notice the presence of God in your life? Is it through nature? In relationships with other people? Is it in a piece of music or art? Or something completely different?

In peace

Nicola

## *Messy Church @ Christ Church*

We had a well-attended June session with lots of crafts and Revd Nicola's worship time on the theme of 'who cares for us?'

Our July session is on Saturday 13th July from 2 - 4 pm and will be on the theme of 'holidays'.

All children must be accompanied by an adult, and we operate on a pay as you feel basis with a suggested donation of £1 per child.

It's a great help with our catering if you book a place in advance – please contact Helen Lappage (details on the back cover of 'Contact'), or send a message via our Facebook page. We hope to see you there.

Please note we do not meet in August so after 13th July the next session will be on 14th September.

### **“That Ice Cream Moment” By Pauline Hardman**

Enjoy a lovely moment,  
a time to reflect and delight....  
on the beauty of a summer's day,  
a time to rest and a time to play.

All of God's creation  
there in full display,  
awakening the senses,  
what joy, this summer's day.

Find that inner peace,  
in a quiet moment or two.

A time just for you,  
wherever you go whatever you do,  
'enjoy an ice cream moment'

Happy Summer!



# Christ Church Guild

As you will know the Guild does not meet on Tuesday evenings during the summer. Instead we keep in touch with coffee afternoons/evenings. We were invited in June to St. Augustine's Church in Harehills as guests of Father Ghebreyesus, who formerly was a very regular attender at Guild. Sadly, only ten of us were able to go on the day but we had a very enjoyable afternoon. Father G provided some typical Eritrean foods and because of the small number we were able to sit round one table together. Our next coffee event is at Joan Egan's house on Tuesday, 23rd July, when you will be welcome from 2pm until you've had enough cake for the week, which might be well into the evening. All are invited.

At our August coffee afternoon at church on Tuesday, 20th from 2.30-4.00pm, we will reveal our September to Christmas programme. It begins on 10th September with Rev'd Becki Stennett speaking about Susannah Wesley and ends with our Carol Service led by Rev'd Tim Nicholls on 17th December. There are some intriguing titles in between. Can I remind you, everyone is welcome at the Guild. We do not expect everyone to attend every week; you can pick and choose the meetings that appeal to you. - *Sheila Staveley*

## RIDDLES QUIZ

Courtesy of Lidgett Park Methodist Church's *Link* magazine.  
(Answers on last page)

1. The more you take the more you leave behind. What am I?
2. What is full of holes but still holds water?
3. I am an odd number. Take away a letter and I become even. What number am I?
4. What starts with "T", ends with "T" and has "T" in it?
5. What gets broken without being held?
6. I can be cracked, made, told and played. What am I?
7. What gets bigger the more you take away?
8. What is always on its way but never arrives?
9. What has many teeth but cannot bite?
10. What do you buy to eat but never consume?
11. What can travel all around the world without leaving its corner?
12. What runs, but never walks. Murmurs but never talks. Has bed but never sleeps; and has a mouth but never eats?



# Musings of a Wayward Pilgrim

## Pain

Is pain always present, only hibernating, waiting to awake into our conscious preoccupations? If pain did not from time to time humble our sense of entitlement to trouble-free existence, perhaps, we would be permanently estranged from the unbidden love of God as a birthright we so conscientiously neglect.

## Body and Soul

Bodies can surprise and disappoint. While regular exercise and a healthy diet can bring fitness and a glow to bodies, ultimately we cannot control how and when our bodies will let us down. Perhaps we can influence how our bodies carry us through our days but in the end we cannot guarantee their well-being. Yet our souls are immune from physical atrophy and rely on our honest and at times courageous attention to their health. There is, indeed, much which unfolds in our physical condition which we must confront and try to accept but we possess individually the awesome responsibility for the care of our spiritual natures. The pull toward a union with the divine is an incontrovertible law of human nature. We are called to be brave enough to turn aside from those fears, those temptations and those debilitating preoccupations which resist this loving and liberating tug towards a destiny which offers more than our bodies could ever hope for. After all, our bodies are only on loan.



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

## Christ Church Table-Top Sale

The next table-top sale takes place on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> July between 10am and 12 noon. Why not come along and help make this popular event yet another big success? There will be no sale in August, so we'll be back on 21st September.

## **Ongoing discussions at Colton relating to ministry in the Circuit from September 2025**

Many of you will be aware by now that Revd Becki will be entering the stationing process and will be moving to a new appointment in September 2025, as will Revd Mark Stennett and Revd Edward Sakwe. Stewards from the churches affected by these decisions will be involved in the stationing process and we'll update you as the work progresses.

The Circuit Meeting has previously agreed that the Circuit will seek to replace 2 of the 3 appointments, which means that we need to prepare for a reduced number of ministers within the circuit from next year. As we've previously reported, steward representatives from Scholes, Cross Gates, Garforth and Colton have started to consider new ways of worship and joint services and there are areas other than worship that we will be reviewing as a Church Council, to support the decisions made by the Circuit and to agree what action we can take as a church to manage the reduced number of ministers.

At the June Circuit Meeting decisions were made about the shape of the circuit going forward from Sept 2025. This is so that when the Circuit takes part in the stationing process, details of the churches that will come under the new appointment(s) can be outlined to any minister seeking a new appointment. As far as our church at Colton is concerned the Circuit Meeting agreed in principle to a proposal that our current section (Colton, Cross Gates, Garforth and Scholes) would continue from Sept 2025, but with the addition of Christ Church.

This may seem a large section for one minister, but with joint working already under exploration, and hopefully with the support of all the congregations, we welcome the return of Christ Church to our section and look forward to all the opportunities being part of this section brings.

***Kathryn and Elaine (Co-senior stewards at Colton)***

## **Christ Church Halton LEP Ministry from September 2025**

Following on from Kathryn and Elaine's article I would like to provide an update about ministry at Christ Church Halton LEP. Revd Edward will be entering the stationing process and will therefore be leaving Christ Church in the summer of 2025. Revd Nicola will be continuing as URC Minister at Christ Church, and her other Churches, as agreed by the URC Leeds Partnership team. Discussions within our Methodist Circuit and URC Synod as well as URC Partnership have begun as our joint Methodist/URC ministry is due for review. Our Church Council feel that we have benefitted from having leadership from both our denominations and that this should continue.

The proposal from the Circuit is that Christ Church will join the grouping of Colton, Cross Gates, Garforth and Scholes as it was noted that the close links particularly with Colton, have been missed. Christ Church representatives will be entering discussions with Circuit Stewards and other Stewards from our group of Churches to plan for the 2025 stationing which will include compiling a profile of our church and what ministerial gifts might assist us with our outreach and growth.

We ask for your continued prayers for all involved in the stationing process, in the discussions on ways to work together as a grouping of churches and in looking at ways to move forward as part of our Circuit and Partnership. If anyone any questions or concerns please feel free to speak to either a steward or one of our ministers.

***Helen Lappage (Senior Steward)***

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### **LEEDS METHODIST CHOIR CONCERT**

Leeds Methodist Choir will be singing at Lidgett Park Methodist Church on 14th September at 7.00. Our programme includes Faure's Cantique de Jean Racine, the Requiem by Durufle and Vivaldi's Gloria.

Please put the date of this wonderful evening's entertainment in your diary.

## Special Birthday Greetings!

Lilian Cowie celebrates her 100th Birthday on July 21st. We know you receive Contact every month Lilian, all the way down in Bath, so we wanted to send you lots of love and best wishes from all your friends here at Christ Church Halton and Colton Methodist Church. Enjoy your special day!

And it's a very happy 90th birthday to Geoff Hardman on 26th July. Happy birthday Geoff, enjoy your celebrations.



### MEETING POINT CAFE

A big thank you for your continued support of the Foodbank. Your contributions are becoming more desperately needed than ever and we welcome all your generous donations. Please be aware that each month Meeting Point is supported by a different church in the Circuit and July is the month when Colton MC support Meeting Point specifically. Any items donated that aren't required by the café will still be delivered to the Foodbank as per usual. The top items for each are listed below.

**Meeting Point** – tinned beans/tomatoes/soup/meat, tea bags, coffee, sugar, vegetable oil, long-life milk, tomato or brown sauce, kitchen roll, toilet roll.

**Foodbank** – UHT milk, coffee, tea, biscuits, cooking sauces, tinned vegetables, tinned fish, long-life fruit juice, custard, tinned fruit.

Thank you again for any donations, large or small.



## **FAMILY JAM (Jesus and Me) AT COLTON**

Family JAM started in April 2024 as an activity allowing all families to come and explore stories, and enjoy crafts, activities, singing and food (so far we've enjoyed pizzas, jacket potatoes and hotdogs!) It's great fun, extremely informal and everyone is welcome – the age range so far has been from 18 months to 12 years, plus mums and dads. It does exactly what it says on the tin – family fun in the presence of Jesus. We will be taking a break over the summer due to school and family holidays, and starting back in September. Watch Facebook, the church noticeboard and Contact for more details of the dates and come and have a great time. It's usually the fourth Sunday of each month, from 4 pm to 6 pm.

### **U & I – shared by Jean Hopkinson**

How can you SM\_LE without an I?

How can you be F\_NE without an I?

How can you W\_SH without an I?

How can you be a FR\_END without an I?

So, I am very important, but can I achieve S\_CCESS without U?

How can I LA\_GH without U?

How can I drink a C\_P of tea or coffee without U?

How can I enjoy the S\_NSHINE without U?

And that makes U more important than I

Therefore, humans U & I = WE need one another in life to work together to achieve greater things.

“Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labour. If either of them falls down, one can help the other up. But pity anyone who falls and has no one to help them up.”

(Ecclesiastes 4:9-10)

# Circuit Forum

Join us at Lidgett Park Methodist Church to reflect and chat together about mission and outreach. We shall then break for refreshments followed by a short act of worship (which on this occasion won't be livestreamed).

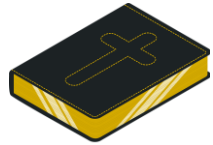
4-6pm  
on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> July 2024  
At Lidgett Park Methodist  
Church

## **Craft and a Chat**

Enjoy crafting? On the first and third Wednesday each month, bring your own craft project to Cross Gates Methodist Church Hall between 1pm and 3pm – refreshments and a warm welcome provided!

## **Bible Month at Colton – the book of Genesis**

Each year the Methodist Church produces material for Bible Month, which is when churches can choose to follow a particular book in the bible for a series of four services. Each week the preacher will refer to part of the book and base worship on that. The stewards from the churches in Revd Becki's section agreed we would all like to follow Bible Month this year, when it is the book of Genesis. For Colton the services will be as follows:



7th July Bible Month week 1 led by Revd Becki Stennett  
14th July Bible Month week 2 led by Mrs Naomi Polson  
21st July Bible Month week 3 led by Revd Joyce Nicholson  
4th August Bible Month week 4 led by Revd Janice Green  
(we skip 28th July as it is joint worship at Garforth, so there's no worship at Colton that day).

There is a page on the Methodist website for Bible Month which shows how the book of Genesis will be split into the 4 sections.  
(See <https://www.methodist.org.uk/faith/the-bible/bible-month/>)

On the website there are discussion videos for each section and our own minister Revd Becki features in week 1!

### **Colton Dates for your diary**

**Monday 15<sup>th</sup> July 7.30pm** Colton Church Council at church

**Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> July 10.30am** Worship at Garforth Methodist Church. If you are able to offer a lift to anyone, or would appreciate a lift, please let Kathryn know.

**Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> September Harvest Coffee Morning and Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> September Harvest Festival worship.** Further details nearer the time but please make a note in your diaries as we are having our Harvest celebrations a week earlier than previous years.

## Let Us Pray...

Come, bring your praises and your pains.  
Come, bring your joys and your sorrows.  
Come, bring your thanks and your regrets.  
Come, bring your hopes and your fears.  
Come, bring all you are to God,  
and find blessing. Amen

Need a quick, simple prayer to say to God? Try:  
"I love you".



**Congratulations** to Stuart Whitehouse who recently completed his first ever sponsored triathlon on behalf of MND. He completed the Ellerton Lake Sprint Triathlon to help best Motor Neurone Disease.

Stuart attended Christ Church about 10 years ago when he lived in the Field Ends. His grandma is Mrs Linda Wilks.

Stuart, a personal trainer and electrician, now runs the Boot Camp group at Colton MC on Monday evenings (6.15-7.15) and the Golden Balance at Christ Church on Wednesday afternoons at 1.45. Some of the Boot Camp's original group have gone on to doing their own marathons, so we can say he's been successful in encouraging others. Well done Stuart!

## Colton Methodist Church 192nd Anniversary

Just a reminder of our celebrations:

**Saturday 6th July 1pm to 4pm**

Tearoom with various stalls and raffle.

**Sunday 7th July 10.30am**

All age worship and parade service led by Revd Becki Stennett

# Summer Update from Connecting Crossgates



The vision for Connecting Crossgates began in 2012 because of the need to see better connections between the community and the churches. Our projects not only benefit local people. They also help the churches to connect with the community and provide bridges to faith.

## Summer Holiday Club

2024 is our fourth year of running termly Holiday Clubs. Around 50 children per day attend for 4 days per week over 4 weeks. Many families struggle financially in the holidays so it's a real privilege to support them. Children aged 4-11 years take part in five 30-minute activity sessions such as crafts, cooking or games. After a hot lunch, everyone comes together for party games, interactive talks and drama with a Christian theme.

75% of children are on free school meals and one third have special educational needs or disabilities. Could you spare an hour to make drinks, serve lunches, sing songs, help on a craft/activity table, or pray for the children and our team? If you can help, please get in touch with Karen on 07985 035125 or [karen@connectingcrossgates.com](mailto:karen@connectingcrossgates.com). The clubs will be at St Richards, Seacroft, Mon-Thurs 22nd July-1st Aug, and at St James Manston, Mon-Thurs 12th-22nd Aug, from 9.30am-2.30pm.

## Morethan Community Café

A warm welcome for all ages every Friday between 11am and 1pm at Crossgates Methodist Church Hall. Homemade cakes and a tots area. It's 'pay as you feel' with a suggested donation of £2. More than a social group, more than a tots group, more than a coffee morning.

## East Leeds Gathers – Prayer for East Leeds

Informal Zoom Prayers – Wednesday 24th July 7.30pm-8.30pm. The code for the Zoom meeting will be 879 4679 1034, and the passcode 461361.

Bus Prayer Pilgrimage Saturday 27th July – from Lincoln Green to Seacroft on the number 49 bus! For more details, contact your Churches Together representative, or email [eastleedsgathers@gmail.com](mailto:eastleedsgathers@gmail.com).

## **Forthcoming Services at Christ Church**

7 July	Mr Stan Pearson
14 July	Rev Edward Sakwe Holy Communion
21 July	Rev Geoff Ellis
28 July	Mr Andy Birkett
4 August	Rev Dr Nicola Robinson
11 August	Mr John Clay
18 August	Rev Dr Nicola Robinson Holy Communion
25 August	Rev Edward Sakwe

### **“My Journey of Faith”**

Revd Becki was interviewed live on BBC radio recently. You can hear her interview from Kat Cowans 'My Journey of Faith' on Radio Leeds, York and Sheffield via the web address below:

<https://bit.ly/RevBeckiRadio>

It's about 18 minutes long, so make a cup of coffee, sit back and have a listen.



## Forthcoming Services at Colton

- 7 July                      Rev Becki Stennett  
Church Anniversary/Parade
- 14 July                     Mrs Naomi Polson
- 21 July                     Rev Joyce Nicholson  
Holy Communion
- 28 July                     *Worship at Garforth Methodist*  
*No service at Colton*
- 4 August                    Mrs Janice Green  
All-Age Service
- 11 August                 Mr Paul Spencer
- 18 August                 Rev Steven Jones  
Holy Communion

### **Other Services**

**Oakwood Church:** 9.15-9.45am Quiet Prayer Service (Thursdays)

**St Gemma's Hospice:** 1.30pm Free Church Service (Thursdays)

**MHA Tranquility Court:** 10.45am Prayers, Praise & Pastries (1st Tuesday of each month)

### **"Contact" Deadline**

Please let Andy have any articles or contributions for Contact's September edition by 7pm on Tuesday 27 August. Many thanks.  
andybirkett76@gmail.com or 07952 861316.



Thanks to John Michael Sullivan

09-12-2005

LOOK AT ALL THESE LAMPS ... WHAT, DO  
YOU THINK OLIVE OIL GROWS ON TREES?

<b>Senior Steward</b>	Helen Lappage (CC)	07415 058187 helenlappage@sky.com
	Kathryn Glasby (Colton)	07503 740500 kathryn.glasby@talktalk.net
	Elaine Preston (Co-Senior Steward, Colton)	ea.preston@ntlworld.com
<b>Room Bookings</b>	Pauline Wood (CC)	0113 2647510 paulineawood@yahoo.co.uk
	Shirley Dann (Colton)	0113 2820828 colton.mcbookings@outlook.com
<b>Ministers</b>	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

**Riddle Quiz Answers:** 1 Footsteps, 2 A sponge, 3 Seven, 4 A Teapot, 5 A promise, 6 A joke, 7 A hole, 8 Tomorrow, 9 A comb, 10 Cutlery, 11 A stamp, 12 A river.