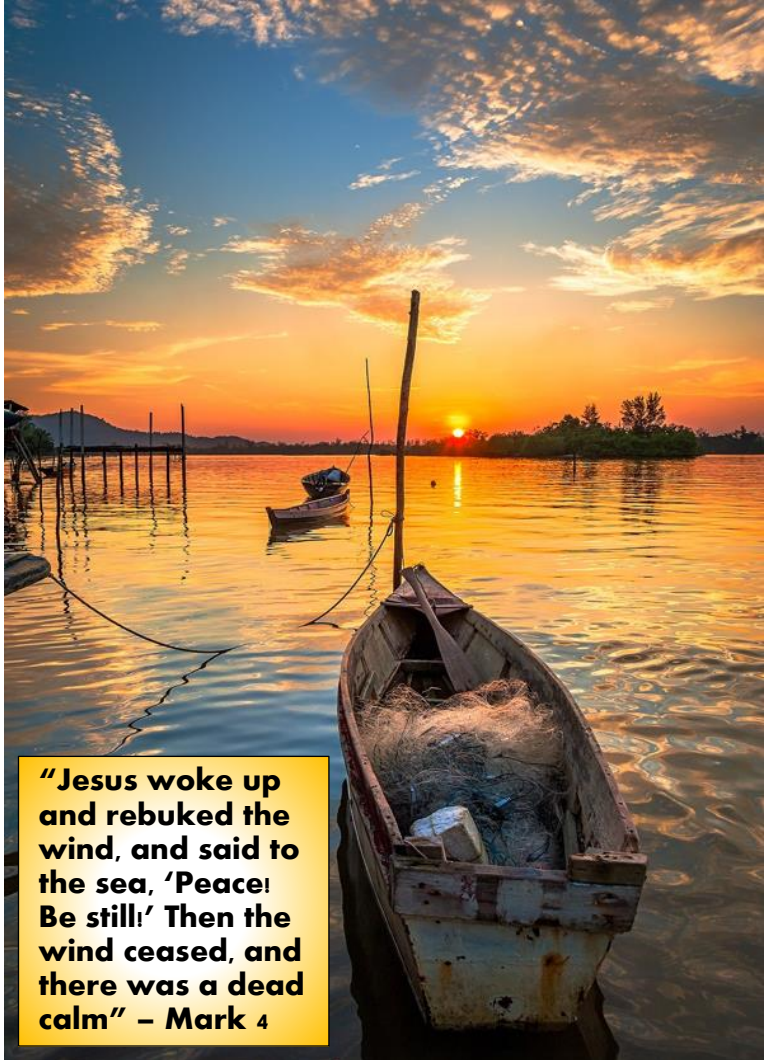


# CONTACT

CHRIST CHURCH HALTON  
COLTON METHODIST CHURCH



June 2024

**"Jesus woke up and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, 'Peace! Be still!' Then the wind ceased, and there was a dead calm" – Mark 4**

## Becki's Letter

As I write this, we're just coming to the end of the period of 50 days celebration of Easter, and I'm turning my mind to celebrations of Pentecost and Trinity Sunday before we move into the long period of 'ordinary time' within the church year. I love that we have such a long time of celebration for Easter, though I'm not sure we really do it justice sometimes! So I've been looking forward to the afternoon of Pentecost Sunday (which will have passed by the time you read this) and the opportunity to be in one of the pubs in Garforth singing some 'Assembly Bangers': those songs we used to sing at Sunday School or in School Assembly that bring a little nostalgia, but also a great sense of celebration. Walking into the pub to ask if we could be there on that occasion to sing these songs, I suddenly felt a little self-conscious -not a usual feeling for me! The reason is that, while of course I knew the staff would probably recognise our major times of celebration as Christians (we played music there at Christmas-time, and I was sure that Easter hadn't escaped their notice!) I wondered how I could explain that Pentecost is a time of great celebration for us too, remembering when the Spirit came upon the Apostles and the church was born!



Fortunately, it was no trouble to explain it at all, the staff were very excited about it, and I walked away happy with the plan. But it made me think – are we known for being a people who celebrate? I would like us to be! I wonder if we're known much more for what people perceive as the grumpy side of faith, believing us to be a bunch of people that are boring, strict, intolerant, unwelcoming, often divided. Throughout the New Testament, we're reminded that we are called to be a people of joy, welcome, celebration! Jesus' first miracle is turning water into wine so that a wedding celebration can continue in full swing! Perhaps there are too many ways over the centuries and in different places that we've been focussed on the nitty gritty, mundane bits of keeping a church going that we've forgotten to first be a people that celebrate life and God's love for each of us.

So, a challenge for us all. What is there to celebrate? How can we do it? How might we share that celebration with our communities and beyond? Answers on a postcard, by email, or over a coffee please!

# Methodist Homes Sunday

## 9th June 2024

Methodist Homes (MHA) Sunday is the annual opportunity to give thanks and celebrate MHA's specialist care and support services. At Colton Methodist Church we will be fundraising on 9th June for MHA by serving a cuppa and cake (yes, more cake!) after morning worship, with any donations for the refreshments going to MHA.



You can find out more about this organisation online at <https://www.mha.org.uk/>

### **A Little Light Evidence**

By Pauline Hardman

It's just a whisper,  
a faint touch,  
a slight glimmer of light  
that can mean so much.  
A softly falling petal,  
an animal sent to sooth.  
Your special song on the airwaves,  
We're sending them to prove.  
An unexpected meeting,  
a face you need to see.  
The dimming of a light a  
and the turning of a key.  
A smell of tobacco  
you can't explain,  
the feeling of a hug.  
A perfumed moment in time  
sent with so much love.

## **Colton Plant Sale – Thank You!**

A very big THANK YOU to all who helped or contributed in any way to our very successful Plant Sale.

To Alison, David and Jenny for the planning, execution, ordering of plants and printing church Updates, an exhausting task but very much appreciated by all.

To all the cashiers who did a sterling job totting up, calculating and preparing cash for banking – the supply of cake hopefully helped!

To all our wonderful bakers who supplied so many delicious cakes which were consumed with relish and taken home!

To all our kitchen staff and new volunteer Sarah, our dishwashers and drier uppers.

To all volunteers on the stalls with their impressive knowledge of plants.

To all our volunteers manning the Raffle so expertly, and to Miriam and Ella for drawing the winning tickets out.

To all who helped set up and clear away on either Thursday evening, Friday or Saturday. Special thank you to Stuart who came especially on Saturday to help with the clearing and dismantling of tables.

To all who paced the streets to deliver so many flyers, and display posters. And to those who produced publicity and Facebook posts.

Special thanks to our scouting groups for their involvement, People in Action and Men's Shed.

Thank you to Kathryn and her clipboard for her hard work with Risk Assessments to keep everyone safe.

All in all a truly wonderful atmosphere, lots of laughter and camaraderie. There are so many positive comments received and some folk actually found the church for the first time!

A financial breakdown will be posted when available.

# **Colton Methodist Church**

## **192nd Anniversary**

**Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> July 1pm to 4pm**  
**Tearoom, craft stalls, tabletop games,**  
**raffle and more!**  
**At Colton Methodist Church**

You are invited to come along and browse the various stalls, make some purchases, then sit and relax over a cream tea or homemade cake. Any profit will go to our new Colton Methodist Church Repair and Renew Fund, which we will be fundraising for during 2024/25.

Please see Elaine or Kathryn if you are able to help with this event, such as with set up, helping on the day, baking, raffle prizes.

**Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> July 10.30am**  
**All Age Worship & Church Parade**

Led by Revd Becki Stennett

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### **Cross Gates Methodist Church – Wednesday Group**

This takes place weekly in the Wesley Room at 2.30pm.  
All welcome.

#### **5 June**

Reuben Chappell – Pierhead Painter 1870-1940 by Roy Cressey.

#### **12 June**

Time for a game of cricket with Alan Tate.

#### **19 June**

Avoiding telephone scams – advice from WPC Laura Bairstow.

#### **26 June**

John Smeaton of Austhorpe – talk by Bob and Jackie Lawrence.

## Arthur T. Blamires (1930 – 2024)

Arthur and Joan's youngest son, Michael, passes on his and the family's grateful thanks to all who helped on the day with his Dad's funeral and with the prior arrangements. He is pleased to be able to submit the following tribute;

"From the early 1960's Dad was a great supporter of the church at Halton Methodist Chapel and then later at Christ Church.



Mum and Dad have made so many close and enduring friendships here,

Dad was a great believer in the work of the church and endeavoured to live by Christian principles by helping others.

Dad understood that friendships were the key to a happy life and so he very much valued the social aspect of the church at Halton but also he had many friends from his career as a teacher at Temple Moor and then later after retirement as a professional artist.

Having lots of interests and being active and doing lots of things was Dad's ethos for a fulfilling life and as a teacher he was passionate about passing this outlook onto his students. Dad believed it was his duty as a teacher not only to educate to pass exams but to inspire his pupils into leading rich and fulfilling lives. His field trips to the Lake District and Scotland were inspiring, leading to students appreciating nature and the world around them and through this expanding their horizons.

Mark and I are fortunate to have had such special Dad and a loving and caring family home where Dad supported us in any way he could. He always respected our life choices and we look back on wonderful childhoods.

We will miss Dad dearly. However, the sadness will be eased for us by the bank of wonderful memories that we have and Dad will always be in our hearts." Michael.

**Arthur Blamires** will be remembered by many and especially by those who treasure his wonderful paintings and prints of Lake District scenery. Here are a few other memories of Arthur from those who knew him:

**Ann Waterhouse** has fond memories of Arthur when he and Joan joined her and her husband Rev'd John on trips to the Holy Land. She shares a story of a very memorable occasion when Arthur and Bill, another minister friend, sang an appropriate old Sankey chorus out in the middle of the Sea of Galilee in a storm! Arthur and Joan also made visits to John when he was leading a very restricted life for the 9 years following his stroke. They managed to get John out to share meals with them which were always happy times.

**Steve Hardy** and his lifelong friends from the time, recall Arthur's energy and enthusiasm as a leader at the Methodist Youth Club in the 60s. Foremost in **Alison Roberts'** recollection of Arthur were his informed and valued contributions at the house fellowship groups they both attended.

**Roger Guy** remembers Arthur as a very supportive and approachable teacher at Temple Moor Grammer School who 'got him through' to attaining Geography O' Level. Sue Guy recalls that Arthur raised a lot of money for the new building, through his painting demonstration events at which he auctioned that session's painting. Both Sue and Roger remember him with love as a kind, thoughtful member of our church.

**Thelma Lappage** holds dear the memories of Arthur, a fellow piano player, bringing her 'Sankey' scores to play during church offertory. She also reminds us how beautiful his garden was and how his art and love of nature reflected his faith and belief in God our creator.

**Anna Lomax** reminds us that Arthur added his artist's input as part of our 'Banner Group', helping to create, amongst others, our lovely Music and Pentecost banners.

**Virginia Atkinson** remembers Arthur as a teacher at Bingley Grammer School where she often, as a student of the local girls' school, visited to watch the boys' rugby team play with a particular eye on the team captain.

I remember his intelligent observations, his sometimes-forthright views but mostly his gentle sense of humour. **Martin Lappage.**

Tributes to, and some images of, Arthur can be found on the Wm Dodgson & Son Tribute Service web pages;

<https://arthurblamires.muchloved.com/>

## Dates for Your Diary @ Colton

**Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> June at 4pm** – Family JAM at Colton

**Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> June 10.30am** Worship at Cross Gates Methodist Church. If you are able to offer a lift to anyone, or would appreciate a lift, please see Kathryn.

**Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> July 1pm to 4pm** Tearoom with stalls to celebrate the Church Anniversary. See separate item for more details.

**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. Again, if you are able to offer a lift to anyone, or would appreciate a lift, please let Kathryn know.

**4pm** Family JAM at Colton

### TWO WOLVES

An old Cherokee told his grandson, “My son, there is a battle between two wolves inside us all. One is evil.

It is anger, greed, jealousy, resentment, inferiority, lies and ego.

The other is good. It is joy, peace, love,

hope, humility, kindness, empathy and truth.”

The Grandson thought about it for a bit, then asked

“Which one wins?”

The old man replied quietly, “the one you feed.”

(Author unknown.)

“Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, because human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires”

James 1:19-20



**A wise man once said:**

“Hate has four letters, but so does Love. Enemies has seven letters, but so does Friends. Lying has five letters, but so does Truth. Cry has three letters, but so does Joy. Negativity has gas 10 letters, but so does Positivity. Life is two-sided, choose the better side.”

**Christ Church AGM  
Thursday 20 June, 7pm**

We hope to see as many of you as possible at our AGM for reviewing and affirming roles held within our Church. We receive reports from Church groups and committees and news from both Methodist Circuit and URC Partnership team. It's your chance to come and find out what is happening and discuss the way forward for our Church.

There will be at least two roles to fill, one being church steward and also a rep for Churches Together. Yvonne is stepping down as Church Steward after already doing extra years so we thank her for all her commitment and hard work. It means we will only have three full stewards, therefore we're asking if you can give this some careful consideration and if any Church member feels called to take on this role please speak to either one of our ministers or a Steward.

We have another challenging year ahead as we look at possible changes to our Ministerial oversight, and consider at new ways to move forward as a Church.

Your attendance at the meeting will be much appreciated along with your prayers for a clearer vision of how we can best represent our Christian calling and support our local and wider community.

- *Helen Lappage*

## **\* Christ Church Messy Church \***

Messy Church takes place on Saturday 8 June between 2-4pm with all the usual fun and games! Book your place now by messaging us on Facebook, or emailing [helenlappage@sky.com](mailto:helenlappage@sky.com)

### **THE COMPUTER COMPETITION**

ALLEGEDLY – Jesus and Satan were having an on-going argument about who was better on the computer. They had been going at it for days. Finally, God said “That’s enough. I’ve had enough. I’m going to set up a test that will last two hours and, from those results, I will judge who does the better job.”

So, Satan and Jesus sat down at the keyboards and typed away. They moused. They faxed. They emailed. They emailed with attachments. They downloaded. They did spreadsheets. They wrote reports. They created labels and cards. They created charts and graphs. They did some genealogy reports. They did every job known.

Jesus worked with heavenly efficiency and Satan was fast. Then, ten minutes before their time was up, lightning suddenly flashed across the sky, thunder rolled, rain poured down and, of course, the power went off! Satan stared at his blank screen and screamed every swear word known in the underworld. Jesus just sighed.

Finally the electricity came back on and each of them restarted their computers. Satan started frantically searching, screaming “It’s gone! it’s all gone! I lost everything when the power shut off!”

Meanwhile, Jesus quietly started printing off all his files from the past two hours work. Satan saw this and became irate. “Wait” he screamed, “that’s not fair. He cheated. How come he has all his work, and I don’t have any?”

God shrugged and said “Jesus saves.”

## Christ Church Halton Guild

May has seen a number of events in which the Guild has participated starting with coffee and cake on the 7th when a good number arrived to enjoy refreshments and conversation.

What has also been significant this month is the change of weather with some nice sunny days to be enjoyed in exchange for soggy wet clothes to be endured!

The weather was very significant for the Guild Spring Plant Sale when forecasters were reporting heavy rain for much of the period right up to the day before the sale started. While we had one or two cold mornings there was no rain at all. Prayers were answered indeed, making a big difference to the final result.

Sales were very brisk with several people spending over £100.00 on hanging baskets alone. Plants, which we bought from our supplier, Trevor, who has a small garden centre near Selby, we're, as always very popular, but a large difference on previous years was the number of plants people had grown from their own stock by cuttings or division, which were sold by us without any cost. We also sold other items, such as gardening gloves, books, refreshments, etc, bringing the final result on a turnover of £5187.24 to £2781.24. This is the highest amount ever raised from the sale, and the money has gone into Church funds.

So a big thank you to all who all who participated in any way.

If you think you may be able to help with this event in future years please let us know as it is not only the 'last gasp players' who are running out of steam!



- Peter Grubb, Co-President with Tony Pickles

## **Christ Church Table-Top Sale**

Saturday 15 June, 10am – 12noon

Come and browse a wide range of stalls, with plenty of fabulous products and great deals on offer!

For more information please call Sue on 07505 920 083.

### **“Talking Jesus” Course**

Dear friends,

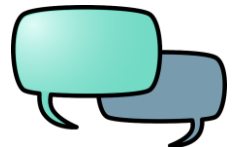
Over the last two months the circuit ministers have been preparing and delivering the Talking Jesus course. It has been a privilege to walk beside people in these conversations.

However, much to our sadness, the uptake of this course has been incredibly low, and the amount of ministry hours and commitment high.

We are reviewing whether to alter the June course, or whether we run it, we feel we need to be accountable with our time, but also recognise this course is extremely helpful in exploring mission and growth. We all want our churches to grow, for God’s Kingdom to expand, and although it would be easy to wish a ‘magic wand’ to make that happen, the tool Jesus gave us for that to happen is US! This course encourages us to think about how we use ourselves to share the good news.

For our planning and viability of the next course it be would very helpful if people could say whether they are thinking of attending and let Rev Tanya Short know by email or phone message. It starts on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> June at 1pm at Lidgett Park Methodist Church for 6 weeks.

Yours in faith, The Staff Team.



## “Wanting”

I suspect too often the ache to "have" is stronger by far than the pleasure of "having". It may well be that desire, while always pointing to the fulfilment of its own yearning, produces its own kind of distinctive, irresistible pleasure - a rush of wanting which in no way guarantees that the release of desire in the actual "having" will bestow as much satisfaction as that enjoyed in the emotional pursuit of that which is desired. If true, this leaves us in a self-perpetuating state of always chasing the carrot of our desire, leaves us in a prison of wanting without the reprieve of ever being sated. Such a state of habitual wanting without delighting in the fruition of having, may well be a curse of materialism, a curse which lends secular meaning to the theological notion of Hell.

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

### **Wednesday JAM (Jesus and Me) @ Colton ...a time for sharing**

We meet immediately after the coffee morning (usually 11.45ish for about 45 minutes). With no formality or preaching, just mutual respect and friendship, we share:

- An episode from the life of Jesus (decided on by the group)
  - Quiet reflection where we share our thoughts (or choose not to) on what we've heard
  - A prayer for ourselves and each other, and the Lord's Prayer
  - A favourite hymn or two (selected by the group)
  - A light lunch of soup (usually home-made) and a roll, at no cost
- Think of it as a spiritual, rather than musical, jam session where we turn up without an agenda and see what we can make happen together. *What a friend we have in Jesus!*

## **Forthcoming Services at Christ Church**

|         |  |
|---------|--|
| 2 June  | Rev Edward Sakwe                         |
| 9 June  | Mr John Summerwill                       |
| 16 June | Rev Dr Nicola Robinson<br>Holy Communion |
| 23 June | Mrs Hazel Featherstone                   |
| 30 June | Worship Team                             |
| 7 July  | Mr Stan Pearson                          |

### **The Mountain**

If the mountain seems too high today, then climb a hill instead.  
If morning brings you sadness, it's ok to stay in bed.  
If the day ahead feels heavy and your plans feel like a curse,  
There's no shame in rearranging, don't make yourself feel worse.  
If a shower feels like needles and a bath feels like you'll drown;  
If you haven't washed your hair for days, don't throw away your crown.  
A day is not a lifetime. A rest is not defeat.  
Don't think of it as failure, just a quiet, kind retreat.  
It's ok to take a moment from an anxious, fractured mind.  
The world will not stop turning, while you get re-aligned.  
The mountain will still be there, when you want to try again.  
You can climb it in your own time.  
Just love yourself till then.

© Laura Ding-Edwards

Shared by Dorothy



## **Forthcoming Services at Colton**

- |         |   |
|---------|---|
| 2 June  | Rev Kerry Tankard<br>All-age Worship                      |
| 9 June  | Mrs Susan Howdle  |
| 16 June | Mr Fidelis Chinyama                                       |
| 23 June | Rev Timothy Nicholls<br>Holy Communion                    |
| 30 June | Worship at Cross Gates Methodist,<br>no service at Colton |
| 7 July  | Rev Becki Stennett<br>Church Anniversary & Parade Service |

### **Additional Services**

#### **Sunday 23 June 4pm @ Colton Methodist**

Family JAM (Jesus and Me) - especially suitable for families with children aged 4-12, but everyone is most welcome, whether you have children in your family or not.

#### **Tuesday 4 June 10.45am @ MHA Tranquility Court**

Prayers, Praise and Pastries

### **“Contact” Deadline**

Please let Andy have any articles or contributions for next month's **combined July & August** Contact by 7pm on Tuesday 25 June. Many thanks.



(See Matthew 7:24-27)

05-30-2014

**THE WISE BUT CONFUSED MAN BUILDS HIS  
ROCK UPON A HOUSE**

**Senior Steward**

Helen Lappage (CC)

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