

CONTACT

CHRIST CHURCH HALTON
COLTON METHODIST CHURCH

September 2024



Jesus said: “The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.” - Matthew 9:37-38

Edward's Letter

Dear Friends, Greetings in the precious name of Jesus Christ.

About 4500 years ago, Moses instructed the Israelites of old to have a great feast as a response to God's goodness to them.

"Be joyful in the Lord's presence, together with your children, your servants, and the Levites, foreigners, orphans, and widows who live in your towns. Do this at the one place of worship. Be sure that you obey these commands..." (Deut.16:13-17).

It was a time of thanksgiving, a time to express their gratitude to God by bringing their gifts in proportion to the way the Lord had blessed them.

It was a time to remind them of how God had rescued them, provided for them and finally brought them to the 'Promised Land' in which they now live.

It was a time of sharing, when they were reminded of their responsibility to the less fortunate in their community and beyond.

Harvest is just round the corner and Churches all over the country are planning their Harvest Festivities. Looking at the Preaching Plan, both Christ Church – Halton, Colton and Garforth have their HF Services planned for Sunday 29th September 2024. Hurrah!

Let us reclaim the attitude and actions expressed in the ancient Hebrew Celebration of the Harvest Festival which remembered the needs of the poor and the stranger. Psychologists have found that 'Generous individuals are personally more fulfilled, happier and more peaceful within themselves.

At a time when some people are struggling to either put food on the table or heat their homes, we need to reflect on our generosity to support those in need in our community and beyond and this will reveal to onlookers the genuineness of our faith in a compassionate and magnanimous Jesus.

Every blessing and peace.

- Revd Edward Sakwe

Lilian Cowie

“It is with deep sadness that we announce the death of Lilian Cowie on the 27th August who passed away peacefully in her own home surrounded by family throughout her final days. Lilian reached the milestone birthday of 100 years in July and had wanted to express her sincere thanks for all the birthday wishes and special messages from her many friends within the Christ Church community. She was very moved, especially at the video message of many of you singing her favourite hymn. These past weeks she has taken great pleasure in re-reading and listening to those messages of love and friendship. We are so grateful for her long and happy life. Lilian will be fondly remembered by the many who knew and loved her.”



Bill Cowie and family.

Welcome Annabel

On Sunday afternoon 21st July, Annabel was baptised at Colton, where she comes to Junior Church and all age worship. Family and friends including folks from Cross Gates Methodist (where Annabel is a Brownie) shared in a joyful time of worship, celebrating the sacraments of baptism and holy communion.

Thanks to Rev Becki for preparing and leading a meaningful service, understandable by all ages, and thanks too to all who helped during and after the service when refreshments were enjoyed. Congratulations and God bless Annabel.

Exam congratulations!

A big well done to Emily Stevenson for getting a first-class Honours degree and her Qualified Teacher Status in Primary Education (Early Years 3-7) with Recommendation for Qualified Teacher Status (QTS). University chapter closed. Everyone is so very proud of her.



**at Colton
Methodist Church**

Family JAM runs on the 4th Sunday of each month, 4pm to 6pm and restarts on **Sunday 22nd September** following the summer break.

What is it?

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.

Who is it for? Everyone! 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.

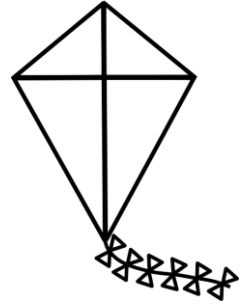
What does it cost? It's totally free!

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 at Colton Church know or

- email: info.coltonchurch@gmx.co.uk
- message our Facebook page "Colton Methodist Church, Leeds"
- pop a note through our church letterbox!

People in Action

On Monday 5th August, Revd Becki and a group of people representing Colton Methodist Church visited People in Action to present a cheque to the value of £1,500, money raised over the year for People in Action as our nominated charity. They were delighted with the donation and it will be put to good use for all the members who attend and access the services offered. We were made very welcome and invited to join the art class which was taking place. A few 'arty folk' in our group made and decorated a wooden kite. It was a lovely afternoon among friends. A big THANK YOU to all who supported our events making that donation possible.



Michael Curl

I would like to thank all those who marked Michael's passing in any way- attending his funeral, sending us cards of condolence, their donations to St Gemma's and praying for us. We have been very aware of the love of God surrounding us during our time of mourning.



Huge thanks to Revd Becki for a wonderful service and the care she took with it. Michael would have been quietly grateful, I think. During this period of grieving, we have been aware of the support of all at Colton, which is a lovely church and feels like family. A big thank you to everyone, may God bless you all.

- Mary, David, Edward, Rachel and their families.

Christ Church Halton Guild



Summer events have largely been restricted to social gathering so we might keep in touch with everyone and these have gone well. Thanks to those who hosted them, and provided refreshments for us to enjoy while catching up with each other.

Our Co-President, Tony Pickles and his wife Sheelagh have celebrated their Golden Wedding recently, and I am sure everyone would want to send their best wishes to them. They started the celebrations with Mass at St. Theresa's Church in Cross Gates and received a 'Papal Blessing from the Pope'. However they also had a great surprise because they each were presented with a Benemerenti Medal in recognition of their services to St Theresa's Church and for their work in other Churches of different denominations. The presentation had been personally approved by Pope Francis on the recommendation of Bishop Marcus Stock. Tony hopes to bring his medal to the Guild on our first meeting of the new session, on the 10th September for us to see.

Summer is rapidly coming to an end (did it actually ever start?), the nights are already drawing in and the 65th Session of our Guild starts on Tuesday 10th September at 7.30pm. Those who attended the August gathering will have received the new programme for September to December. If you would like a copy they will be available each Sunday, or ring 0113 2646046 and we will try to get one to you.

Hope to see you all at our opening meeting of the 65th session in the Lounge when the Revd. Becki Stennett will be talking about Susannah Wesley. As usual on our opening night we hope to have some interesting refreshments!

(PS The Autumn Plant Sale will be held on Friday 18th and Saturday 19th October. Please make those you know who are interested aware of these dates.

Peter Grubb
Co-President with Tony Pickles

Dates for Your Diary @ Colton

Sunday 22nd September:– Family JAM 4pm to 6pm.

Saturday 28th & Sunday 29th September Harvest Festival weekend. See separate item in this month's Contact for more details.

Monday 4th November: Colton Church Council 7.30pm.

Sunday 10th November: All Age Worship and Parade Service for Remembrance Sunday.

Saturday 23rd November: Colton Christmas Fair. More details to follow.

Colton Wednesday “Jesus And Me” Sessions

Our, recently introduced, Wednesday JAM sessions are held on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month. So, what is Jesus And Me? It's all about the sharing: we share each other's company, we share lunch together (free), and we share the good news about Jesus. ALL ARE WELCOME TO JOIN US.

We meet immediately after the Coffee Morning finishes, but if you're coming for JAM only, aim to arrive between 11.30 and 11.45. If you're intending to come for the first time, it would be helpful if you'd let us know beforehand (for catering purposes) - but if you forget, don't let that stop you from turning up - it's all about the sharing! If you have any questions about JAM, please email info.coltonchurch@gmx.co.uk.

Don't forget!

Next month (October) is Christ Church's designated month for supporting Meeting Point Café in Harehills. Donations can be brought into Christ Church throughout October. Thanks for your support.

In the aftermath of the recent riots over immigration, and amid noisy calls to 'stop the boats' and deport immigrants, let us hold fast to, and share, the word of God:

“When a foreigner lives with you in your land, don't take advantage of him. Treat the foreigner the same as a native. Love him like one of your own. Remember that you were once foreigners in Egypt. I am God, your God.”

Leviticus 19:33-34

Harvest Festival Weekend **at Colton Methodist Church**

Saturday 28th September – Harvest Coffee Morning
10.30am to 12 noon

We will be serving coffee/tea/juice and a selection of cakes. Come and enjoy some refreshments and take a look at our Harvest Display.

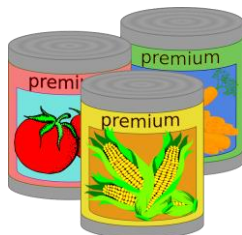
Sunday 29th September – Harvest Festival at 10.30am

Led by Revd Becki Stennett

All Age worship

Members of Colton's uniformed groups and the congregation from Garforth Methodist Church 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



Eco Church at Colton (Elaine, Jo, Jonathan, Kathryn – Eco Church team)

The Methodist Church has set churches an aspirational target of net zero carbon emissions by 2030. Colton has now taken its first step in helping to achieve this goal by registering and taking the Eco Church survey to start our journey.

The survey showed us that we are already doing a number of things to make our church eco-friendly, but it also showed us that we have much work to do in order for us to be the best we can be. It's an exciting journey to be at the start of in caring for the world around us, and it will ensure that we consider carbon net zero and climate change in the decisions we take for our church.

What is Eco Church?

Simply, this is a scheme designed to equip our church to work towards environmentally friendly practices. Its purpose? To show that the church is good news for God's earth. It asks us to express our love for God's creation in the management of buildings and land, community, lifestyle and worship.

What are our first steps?

Alongside taking the survey and building an action plan to guide our progress, we will continue to keep you updated with regular Contact articles and Top Tips (see the first of these below). We'll work to ensure that we have Eco Church aspirations included in any practical decisions we need to make regarding our Colton church building, for example.

How can you get involved?

We'd love to have more people joining us on this journey so if you would like to get involved or just find out more, our next Colton meeting will be on **15th October, 7pm**. It would be lovely to see you there 😊 In the meantime, you might like to visit the Methodist Church website www.methodist.org.uk and search for "eco church".

What does net zero carbon mean?

There are lots of ways to describe this, but perhaps the simplest is to say that when we achieve a balance between the carbon emitted into the atmosphere and the carbon removed from it, net zero carbon has been achieved. Net zero can only be achieved when current carbon emissions have been reduced significantly. Watch this space for top tips on how you can help to achieve this 😊

Creation

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 2024 is “To hope and act with Creation.” This is not a passive hope but an active one. A hope that is grounded in God’s love for all Creation. A hope that inspires us to pray and act for a better future for all living and non-living parts of God’s Creation.

One way we’re embodying this deep hope at Christ Church is through craftivism. Craftivism is for anyone who wants to make beautiful and useful craft with a message — helping us and others to stop and reflect. As such, we’ve been making flowers to display on our tree in the forecourt. The making and displaying of flowers is a way of highlighting the beauty and diversity of our world and the need to care for it. So, please add to our flowers in whatever way you can.

Peace,
Nicola



A wee prayer, by Revd. Lindsey Sanderson, Moderator, National Synod of Scotland, The United Reformed Church

God of all hopefulness and joy, as the Season of Creation approaches enable us to take time to notice signs of hope within creation; wildflowers blooming on derelict land, species returning to natural habitats once more, days when renewable energy supply outstrips demand.

May these signs of hope prompt us to act - to uphold the integrity of every living thing within the household of God to make choices which embody the love we have for our global neighbours and in all things to give an account of the hope which is within us for all creation. May it be so. **Amen.**

Fancy a Coffee?

Monday coffee takes place weekly at Cross Gates Methodist Church, in the Church Hall, between 10:00am and 11:30am. Anyone is welcome, so come along if you would like someone to talk to while you enjoy a drink.

Colton Church Anniversary

A wonderful weekend of celebrations was held at Colton Church on 6th & 7th July. On the Saturday we had a tearoom with craft and other stalls which was well attended, raising just under £400 for our Church Renew and Repair Fund. We've had great feedback from the event, with lots of cake being eaten, Brownies selling their wares in true entrepreneurial style, and local craft folk drumming up business. A big thank you to everyone who helped with or supported this happy and successful community event.

On the Sunday we had a good turnout for worship including Rainbows and Brownies, with lots of lively singing, bunting making and thinking about Creation. Thanks to Revd Becki for leading our celebration worship.

Celebrating Communion with Revd Steven Jones

Some of us were privileged to watch Revd Steven Jones received as an ordained presbyteral minister into full connexion with the Methodist Church in Britain at the Methodist Conference in Leeds, either in person at the Armouries or on the big screen at Cross Gates Methodist Church!

To further mark this change from local preacher to ordained minister, a number of us from Colton and Cross Gates Churches worshipped at Garforth Methodist Church on Sunday 28th July, when Steven, along with our minister Becki, led worship and served Communion to the congregation. It was a special time for us to share this together with the other churches and we look forward to Steven leading worship at Colton soon as an ordained minister!

Christ Church Table-Top Sale

Saturday 21 September, 10am – 12noon

The famous Christ Church table-top sale returns, with something for everyone, so come and take a look!

For more information please call Sue on 07505 920 083.

Well done!

Congratulations are due to Jonathan for graduating with a 2:1 in Politics and International Relations. Well done, we knew you'd do it. Jonathan is now back in Leeds, working and taking a Masters Degree in Management and Accounting.

Congratulations too to Matthew, Madeline's son, who has passed all his GCSEs with good grades, and is now studying for A levels at Garforth. Well done Matthew!

Best wishes to all returning to school, college, starting a new job or returning to or starting university this coming month.

Belated happy birthday to all who have celebrated their special days over the Summer. Happy September birthday wishes to Eunice and Ali.

Decorating and Cleaning @ Colton

The new hall has now been decorated and looks wonderful. A big THANK YOU to all who helped on Monday 12th and Wednesday 14th August with the annual clean. So many volunteers made light work of the tasks. Thank you also to Ann who will be cleaning the floors and carpets over the next few days.

The Darkness of News

I have quit listening to the news for a while. It is so easy to become habituated to the insistent reporting of calamities, acts of staggering violence, fractious bickering of politicians and dangers of all kinds lurking behind every corner of every day. Modern news by its nature is disquieting- often provocatively upsetting. Yet as a people we watch, we listen and read about events with a hunger at times ravenous. Do we feel any better, more secure by following story after story about health scares, gory accidents, corruption within institutions, violent crimes, environmental devastation and the cruelties which abound throughout the world? I seek a respite from being reminded that this world is stained by sin, pummelled by accidents and broken in so many ways. It may well be cowardice on my part but I feel in need of solid calories of goodness - the gospel of hope, the possibility of a triumph over the seething darkness.

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

Harvest Time at Christ Church

Christ Church Harvest service will be on September 29th, and will be led by Ted Britton, as we celebrate and give thanks for God's wonderful gifts.

Donations will be gratefully received and put to good use as always.

Monetary gifts will go to WYDAN for the night-shelter project at Gipton. Meanwhile, gifts of food will go to Meeting Point Cafe and the food bank.



- *Alison*

Forthcoming Services at Christ Church

1 September	Local Arrangement
8 September	Rev Angela Hughes
15 September	Rev Edward Sakwe Holy Communion
22 September	Rev Nicola Robinson
29 September	Mr Ted Britton
6 October	Rev Nicola Robinson Church Anniversary

Christ Church Messy Church

Messy Church returns from its summer break on Saturday 14 September at the usual time, 2pm. It really helps with our catering if you let us know in advance that you will be coming, so please message us via Facebook, or contact Helen (details on the back page). The start of a new year of Messy Church could be an ideal time to bring a friend for the first time – everyone is welcome, all ages!

All children must be accompanied by an adult. We provide our mix of games, craft, worship, stories, and songs, plus the refreshments we share at the end, on a “pay as you feel able” basis, with a suggest donation of £1 per child.



Forthcoming Services at Colton

- 1 September Mr Grenville Jensen
All-age Worship
- 8 September Mr John Summerwill
- 15 September Mrs Ann Johnson
- 22 September Rev Joyce Nicholson (10.30am)
Holy Communion
- Rev Becki Stennett (4.00pm)
Family JAM (Jesus And Me)
- 29 September Rev Becki Stennett
All-age Worship/Harvest Festival
(Joint service with Garforth)
- 6 October Mr Stan Pearson

Additional Services

Tuesday 3 September, 10.45am, MHA Tranquility Court
"Prayers, Praise and Pastries"

NB There will be no circuit services September - November

"Contact" Deadline

Please let Andy have any articles or contributions for October's edition of Contact by 7pm on Tuesday 1 October. Many thanks.
andybirkett76@gmail.com or 07952 861316.



Thanks to Richard Germain

02-18-2011

I SIGNED UP OVER TWO MONTHS AGO AND
YOU ARE THE ONLY PERSON WHO HAS
FRIENDED ME

Senior Steward

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