

Colton Parish News

September 2026



Colton Parish News is sponsored by:

The Parish Lands Trust, St. Mary's Church & the Parish Council

St Mary the Virgin Church, Colton



Church Services

First Sunday	Holy Communion	11.00 am
Second Sunday	Morning Worship	11.00 am
Third Sunday	Holy Communion	11.00 am
Fourth Sunday	Morning Worship	11.00 am
Fifth Sunday	Service Format will vary	11.00 am
Keep your eyes peeled for details of other services and Special Sunday Afternoon Events		

For all Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals and any Pastoral Needs
please contact Reverend Lynne Dean

Resident Priest Reverend Lynne Dean The New Rectory Bellamour Way Colton WS15 3JW 07736 972560 lanternlit@hotmail.com	Rector Prebendary Simon Davis The Vicarage Market Place Abbots Bromley WS15 3BP	Church Wardens Katie Brown Admaston Farmhouse Admaston, Rugeley, WS15 3NH 07814 729148 Mrs Victoria Hawley The Old Rectory, Bellamour Way, Colton, WS15 3JW 07939 003153
Messages to the Parochial Church Council : Mrs Katie Brown 07814 729148		

Message from your editor



I hope everyone is managing to keep cool and safe in this current heatwave. They are forecasting another for September ! In this months edition there is information about the annual Christmas fair, (I know !) but please put the date in your diary , it is a major revenue generator for your village hall and a nice start to the festivities,

Also this month see page 17 for information about a new fitness class starting in September, chair based fitness, maybe of interest.

Happy September everyone

Fiona

All Items for inclusion in the NEXT EDITION

Must reach the Editor by 15th of THIS MONTH



coltonparishnews@gmail.com

Thank you Fiona O'Brien Editor



Colton Parish Council

The Parish Council meet on the first Wednesday of the month in the Village Hall commencing at 7:30 pm unless advised to the contrary.

Members of the public are welcome to attend and should note their participation is limited to a maximum 20 minutes at the beginning of the meeting when questions and comments from the public are taken

Parish Council Elected members

Chairman

No one elected at Annual meeting.
Councillors will take turns to chair meetings

Clerk to the Council

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Bearing Fruit

Late one balmy August evening, two local boys, John and Tim, set out on an apple scrumping escapade. Knowing their goal, they furtively climbed the vicarage garden wall, tiptoed swiftly across the beautifully manicured lawn gaining shelter in the faded, dappled light in the vicarage orchard. They were not disappointed; the vicar's apple trees were heavy with fruit and the boys set to with a will, first filling their pockets with apples the size of footballs, then taking off their sweaters and laying them spread-eagled on the ground, all the better for bearing fruit.

Light began to fade rapidly and after ten minutes they had so many apples that they retreated to the safety of the churchyard to share out a cache, so expansive that they dropped two rosy apples by the church lych-gate. 'Dont worry about those,' said John, 'we can collect them later.'

No sooner had they settled down to count their horde when they noticed PC Smith the local policeman peddling lazily down Church Lane. Alarmed by the thought of being caught red-handed the boys withdrew to the safety of a recently dug grave.

Seeing movement in the half light and hearing noises in the churchyard, PC Smith, standing by the gate, cast his eye around. Feeling a little nervous of his surroundings and not wanting to enter the churchyard in the gathering gloom, he swiftly returned to the police station to solicit assistance from Station Sergeant Brown.

Returning to the churchyard, the two officers stood by the gate and this is what they heard echoing from the bowels of the earth.

'One for you — and one for me!' 'One for you — and one for me!'

'What can it be?' quivered PC Smith.

It's the devil and the Angel Gabriel' trembled Sergeant Brown, 'and they're sharing out souls!'

'I don't like this - one little bit,' hissed PC Smith.

'One for you — and one for me!' 'One for you — and one for me!'

At last, the boys finished the grand sharing out. 'That's it then,' said John.

'No, wait,' replied Tim, 'don't forget the two by the gate!'

And before you could say 'an apple a day' those two guardians of the law, had disappeared down Church

Lane in a confusion of helmets, truncheons and bicycle clips!

In John's gospel, Jesus calls us to, 'go and bear fruit — fruit that will last' and in the epistles both Paul and Peter exhort us to 'keep in step with the Spirit' bearing fruit - the fruit of the Spirit. Whilst bearing fruit for John and Tim was a matter of carrying away their ill-gotten gains, bearing fruit for the Christian is about being productive as we strive to develop within

ourselves a Christ-like nature. Whilst we are made in the image of God and cannot help but be fruitful if we allow the Holy Spirit to develop fruit within our lives, nonetheless, the challenge lies in showing and sharing with others the fruit of the Spirit, both as individuals and as a church, within our families, our communities, our neighbourhood, our parish, our world — love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control, knowledge, perseverance and Godliness. if we seek to bear fruit as

individuals; if we seek to bear fruit as a church, being productive, we will see and experience growth as individuals and as a church in each and every sense of the word.

Ann Roe (Reader)

Observations From the Kitchen Window



What a great start to the month! For the last few weeks 'Er Indoors and I have been up to our ears in it with few opportunities to relax. We have been having to deal with issues related to our businesses, recalcitrant banks who would rather tell us what we should do with our money than carry out our instructions. They seem to think our money is actually theirs!! In addition, there has been a succession of social events for family and friends (including two birthdays and a death) all piled on top of each other. There is also the background problem of having to deal with the unusually hot, dry weather which is turning the garden into a crisp brown patch and the difficulties of having to try and protect as many important plants as possible and keeping the dogs away from sun bathing.

Eventually we found we had a clear evening, and we were settled down to what we hoped would be a quiet relaxing time after a good meal and bottle of wine. In the background the TV was blathering on inconsequentially at low volume. I was still reading the Sunday Paper and 'Er Indoors was on her iPad. Suddenly there was a loud BANG and a glass pane on one of the bifold doors exploded spreading a shower of tiny splinter into the room. We both leapt out of our chairs in unison. The Olympic Swimming Formation Team would have been proud! The whole window frosted over. 'Er Indoors' immediate reaction was that someone had thrown a brick. My vote was for a was a big bird. I went outside to look for evidence of what had happened expecting to see either a buzzard with a broken neck or a badly shattered brick. Nothing!

On closer examination of the window, we could see that there was no damage on the outside. It was limited to the inner glass pane which was completely frosted over. There was no obvious cause for this to have occurred. The window is protected by a sofa in front of it, and 'Er indoors had not missed when throwing something at me and I had ducked. Also, it was out of my range for when I dropped things. One matter of concern was the potential safety hazard with dogs and great grandchildren getting too close and wanting to examine and poke around the damage.

There were two immediate priorities. The first was to find someone to carry out a repair. The other, bearing in mind that 'Er Indoors originated from Yorkshire, was to establish whether we could legitimately find someone who might pay for the damage!

We contacted the builder who had constructed the new wing on the house. He, in his turn, had used a subcontractor to supply and fit the bifold as part of the project. We wanted to establish whether there is a valid guarantee still in place This was the start of the bad news. The window installer has long since ceased trading. So, no options there. But worse was to come. Even if there had originally been a warranty in place (which the builder could not confirm) it would have expired after five years. The work was actually carried out six years ago! So, no prospect of recourse there either.

Someone told us about a Trade Organisation that might be able to identify a fault with the glass or its installation. We did not think that option could be of any help either. We had followed advice from S&B Windows that we should tap the damaged pane gently with a hand brush. All the glass just fell out onto a sheet as a massive heap of glittering diamonds and were shovelled into a bucket which killed any reasonable opportunity for analysis of the cause.



The final potential source of funds that we could identify was our insurance policy. As usual, we have an excess on the policy, and the certain outcome, if we were to make a claim, would be a large hike in next year's premium. We hesitated to approach them. We thought that before contacting the insurers we ought to get a quote for a replacement. Therefore, we asked S&B Widows to provide us with a formal quote. They sent their man along to measure up and price it out. The next day S&B installed the replacement unit with their normal excellent service. Their price was exactly the same as the insurance policy excess, so it was a no brainer. Forget insurance!

We still do not know the cause of the explosion. Such events are uncommon but they are well known. All sorts of possible explanations have been put forward but nothing conclusive. We must just hope that no more of our double glazing, (especially the other panels in the bifold doors) decides to go down the same destructive route.

These diamonds had a life of their own and seemed to be breeding like rabbits! They were scattered to all corners of the room and under all the furniture. Our Dyson was working overtime to keep up with them. We are still finding small, sharp splinters of glass on the sofa. This is like clearing up the pine needles and other bits of Christmas decorations, until it is time for the next festive season!

Talking about diamonds, 'Er Indoors was reminded of an occurrence long ago. A girl at her children's first school came home with unexpected money. When her mother enquired about its source the girl said, "I found these diamonds at the roadside and have been selling them to my friends!". Perhaps we could try something similar! Oh no! It's too late. S&B took them away for disposal!

Best regards from all at Sheringham

Colton Garden and Produce Club



Hello to you all once again. I hope you are all managing to cope with this extended period of rather warm weather. According to reports, it is as bad as the summer of 1975 when standpipes were in use, and the harvest was extremely poor. Our potato crop is going to be badly affected this year, so perhaps there should be a reduction in crisp production! Not quite wartime conditions, but we Brits usually pull through under extreme conditions.

Enough of the doom and speculation.

We restart the Garden club meetings from the summer recess (not as long as the politicians get), on Thursday 3rd of September at 7:30 pm. It is going to be another mystery talk, with Chris Saunders coming to do a presentation on The Sikkim Adventure. If you research this title, you may be able to pinpoint the country he will be talking about. Please be prepared to sign a list for the October Harvest supper 'bring-and-share' event. Talking about harvests, as all the crops seem to be changing for the usual time when most plentiful for harvesting. Early beans, and even hedgerow fruits such as blackberries and sloes, will be over by the start of September. The damson vodka and sloe gin may have to be given a miss this year! A glut of tomatoes is no real compensation either but will be finished before the harvest supper.

I can't believe we are heading towards the autumn equinox, after experiencing a disappointing partial eclipse, and it is time to think about next spring by starting to plan spring bulbs such as daffodils, grape hyacinths, crocus and ordinary hyacinths in a sunny or partially shaded site. Remember to plant them at a depth equal to three times the length of the bulb. This will protect them from frosts and the scrabbling paws of any passing squirrels. It may be too early to think about replacing bare patches in the lawns, as they will take a long time to recover from the drought conditions – the one consolation is that we have had very little mowing this year!

I hope we have all been doing our part in looking after our feathered friends. Water in bird baths and trays needs refreshing daily and cleaned at least once a week. With new fledglings reaching full maturity, we can put the feeders back up. With the dry weather they also need fat balls or blocks to build them up to face the winter. Don't forget the ground feeders – a sprinkling or small bowl of mealworms will be particularly appreciated by the robins.

Climbing and rambling roses can now be cut back to encourage new growth for early flowering in the spring. I am going to cut mine back to fence height as it has bolted and developed a lot of thick brown stems. It will either finish it or give it a new lease of life – some mulch or manure around the bases of the roses always



provides extra nutrients, placed a few inches from the main stem. This year there is noticeably a problem with blackspot – remove infected leaves and clear them from the ground to prevent reinfection next year.

If your hydrangea is looking a bit sorry for itself, don't worry too much. Keep them well watered and fed, and they should recover next year. If they have been in full sun, they may have to be relocated to a shadier site and feed them with coffee or tea grounds to help the blooms regain their original colour.

The most talked about topic, even on radio garden programmes, is how we need to adapt to the apparent change in our weather patterns, especially if the threat of change in the EL Nino currents materialises. All we can do is work with the change in the seasons. As a result, I have started to clear the debris from the wildflower garden, and as soon as the ground is soft enough, I will dig out any persistent clumps of weeds and broadcast some hardy perennial seeds to kick start an early flowering display. Some hardy annuals can also be sown, such as nigella, pot marigolds, opium poppies and cornflowers, providing your soil is not prone to waterlogging in the winter. I will just have to wait and see which plants have expired and need replacing in the rest of the garden and replace them with some of the drought resistant plants I listed last month.

I trust most of us have been able to nurture and keep potted plants in good health. In fact, the roses have been great this year, although the blooms have not lasted very long, even when using a liquid manure to feed them. Although the dahlias are thirsty plants, they have provided some spectacular blooms, and with supposedly cooler weather on the way, they will continue to bloom provided they are dead headed frequently. Provided we have been blessed with some rain, spring flowering biennials such as forget-me-nots and wallflowers can now be planted.

I just hope you have not been invaded by a plague of what we thought were hoverflies. They have carved an entry into the middle of a heather and established a nest in the base. They are slightly larger than a hoverfly, but smaller than a wasp, with wasp like markings and a narrow, oval shaped body. We have not been attacked, but they do not like us going anywhere near their entrance. Any ideas ? We are still investigating!

Take care, apply the sun block and just do what the weather will allow. Another heatwave possibly in September, so be vigilant. Those hedges can be given their autumn trip.

Happy gardening. Don't forget to keep harvesting those crops.

Peter Brightman – 07896521941/ 01889803678

COLTON WI



When events are planned weeks or even months ahead, the one thing that cannot be guaranteed is the weather, and who would have thought that, as I am writing this on 10 July, we would be in the middle of another heatwave with my weather station telling me the temperature outside has reached 36.2C or 97.2 for those of us who are lucky enough to remember Fahrenheit, not to mention pounds shillings and pence.

We have just returned from an event organised by the WI Committee for members and their guests to visit 2 wonderful gardens in Compton Wolverhampton – 19 and 12 Waterdale. How the owners have managed to keep the plants looking so wonderful in the heat of this exceptional summer remains a mystery. One garden was a riot of colour and the other a complete contrast of greens and a garden shed unusual enough to be the garden shed of the year and a grotto. Two very different worlds but the welcome in each of them was the same. Plenty of information and refreshments including cakes which went down a treat despite the heat. A very leisurely morning with lots to think about and what we might grow in our own gardens.





July is the month we celebrate the birth of Colton WI. As long ago as 1938 ladies in the village decided (against the advice of the men I understand who thought the idea would never materialise) to become WI ladies and what a wonderful institution it is. We had a meal at the Red Lion in Longdon Green on Wednesday evening (8th July) and all 17 ladies who were able to attend enjoyed their choice of meal in excellent company. The chatter never stopped and we left fully replete after a most enjoyable evening.



Our next meeting on Wednesday 12 August is in the village hall and all are welcome to see Lucinda Lovesey who was recently a competitor on Pottery Throwdown. It promises to be a very special meeting with lots of visitors and other WI ladies from nearby villages. You are welcome to join us if you would like to do so, the meeting starts at 7.30pm. There is a charge of £3 for non Colton WI members, but that includes refreshments of strawberries, cream, ice cream, and shortbread.

COLTON WI



On a unique evening, when the partial eclipse of the sun occurred, and the temperature was once again in the 30's, those of us who went to the village hall enjoyed one of the most interesting informative and entertaining talks.

Lucinda Lovesey was a contestant a couple of years ago in the Pottery Throwdown, and she brought with her the things she had made to get through to the very end. For those of you that watch the series, you know how good those taking part are, but for some of us who had never watched the Show, it was a revelation. Not only did we get the privilege of seeing what she had made for the Show, she also brought with her the drawings that she had prepared of the items before putting her hands in the clay. We learnt too of what went on behind the scenes, absolutely fascinating. Then there was the opportunity to purchase items she had brought with her and which were for sale. A great evening enjoyed not only by Colton WI, but also members of other WI's and those in the village who had decided to come after seeing the advert In the Parish Magazine.



What also made the evening so special were the delicious refreshments – strawberries, cream, ice cream and shortbread. Ideal on the hot night, but the village hall was as cool as anyone could have wished for. Thank you VHMC for providing air conditioning, a wonderful bonus on a very hot night.

As always we had a competition – a piece of pottery – which Lucinda judged. It must have been a difficult decision, so many lovely items on display, but Ruth was the lucky winner, an item made by her son Mark many years ago.



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Friendship Club: July Report

Members were welcomed before returning speaker, Kath Reynold's was introduced, her topic being 'Celebrating the 1970's.'

The decade of the 1970's was defined by gaudy wallpaper, colourful bathroom suites and great television programmes (some of which would not be aired today) and let's not forget, some classic music in the charts!

Notable events for each year of the decade:

- On 10 April 1970, Paul McCartney announced the split of The Beatles
- 1971 decimalisation was introduced
- On 21 July 1972, at least 20 bombs exploded in Belfast, Northern Ireland (planted by the IRA) during 'the troubles.' Nine people were killed and 130 people were injured. This event is known as 'Bloody Friday'.
- 1973 saw the wedding of Princess Anne to Captain Mark Phillips.
- The first MacDonalds Fast Food Chain was opened on 12th October 1974 in Powis Street, Woolwich, Southeast London. This busy year also saw the IRA Birmingham pub bombings, 2 general elections and the 3 day week!
- Following unrest at the Ford Dagenham Plant regarding equal pay, the Equal Pay Act was introduced in 1970 and enforced in 1975
- 1976 saw a drought which caused severe water shortages and resulted in thousands of communal street standpipes being installed after taps ran dry. Families had to queue to collect water. The country also encountered a plague of ladybirds.
- In 1977, Queen Elizabeth II celebrated her silver jubilee. Members of the public joined the celebrations by having street parties and a chain of beacons.
- The May Day bank holiday was first introduced in 1978. Established by the Labour government, it was championed by Employment Secretary Michael Foot and MP Jo Richardson. Additionally, the nation endured a Winter of discontent and learned that the first 'test tube baby', Louise Brown had been born.
- Margaret Thatcher's became Prime Minister on 4 May 1979.

Items that we all remembered from that decade included: Boxed padded cards, transistor radios and cassette recorders - who remembers trying to record their favourite song on the Top 10 singles chart on the radio? In the home, we reminisced about Lava lamps, flocked wallpaper, tiled fireplaces, avocado/pink/blue/brown coloured bathroom suites and hideous curtains! Fashions of the day for females included tank tops, twin sets, hot pants, white boots and poncho's. Trendsetting males would be wearing flared trousers, cheesecloth shirts and Lumberjack jackets or Afghan coats - platform shoes or clogs were worn by both sexes.



Memorable TV programmes included: Morecombe & Wise, The Parkinson chat shows, The Sweeney, The professionals and Starsky and Hutch. Other programmes which are not considered acceptable viewing today, include: Love thy neighbour, rising Damp and Til death us do part.

The music scene was varied, to include punk rock, glam rock, hard rock and disco styles. Bands with number 1 hits during the decade included: ABBA, Queen, Kate bush, Hot chocolate, Village People and also a local Staffordshire band, Climax Blues Band.

The next three meetings are as follows:

19th August 2026: the speaker will be Gill Sykes and her topic will be 'The Crime of Being Poor.'

16th September 2026 will be our lunch outing at Marsh Farm. If you wish to attend, you **must** notify me of your **menu choices** and also **pay in advance**. The cost will be £18.50 per person, for three courses and a hot drink. Starters are either soup or melon cocktail. The main course choices are: Roast Chicken, Poached salmon with parsley sauce or vegetable cottage pie. Desserts are either: Sherry Trifle, Apple Pie or Trio of Ice Cream.

21st Oct 2026: the speaker will be Emma Purshouse and her topic will be 'It's Honorary, Bab—Poet Laureate'

We look forward to welcoming existing members and any prospective new members.

Karen Hill
01889 586 379

THE 1986 COLWICH RAILWAY ACCIDENT

September 19th, 2026 is the 40th Anniversary of that terrible event in which a train driver lost his life and 75 passengers were injured.

To mark the Anniversary, a fully-illustrated talk entitled 'Where two lines cross' will be given in Colwich Parish

Sunday September 20th at 4.00pm

By kind permission of the PCC

Entry is free, however a donation can be made, the proceeds of which will go to the Church and the Colwich Accident Memorial Garden maintenance fund.

The talk will tell the story, including the part played by the local villagers and others during



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Colton Organisation Contacts

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Colton Produce Guild Mr Peter Brightman (Chairman) Tel: 07896521941 Email: pd.brightman@hotmail.co.uk	Burial Ground Trustee Ms Alison James Tel: 07969266779 Email:colton.pc@hotmail.com
Colton History Society Mrs Gill Sykes Email: gillsykes@btinternat.com	Colton Friendship Club Mrs Karen Hill 01889 586 379



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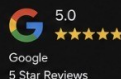
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Benefice Bible Book Club 2026



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Sunday 28 June

4.00 pm at Colwich Church

Galatians

Sunday 26 July

4.00pm at Blithfield Church

Joel

Sunday 27 September

4.00 pm at
Colton Church Room

Philemon and
Titus

Sunday 25 October

at Church House,
Abbots Bromley

Ecclesiastes,
chapters 1 – 6

Sunday 22 November

at St Stephen's, Gt
Haywood

I Thessalonians

For more information, contact the Rev'd Mark Davys
revmdavys@gmail.com or 07483 298725