



The  
United  
Reformed  
Church



# Halifax Group Magazine

Heath New Hope New Providence



Ash Wednesday the first day of Lent

February 2018

Our vision is to know, love, live and  
share Jesus, for a better world.

## Letter from the Manse

We have just celebrated the amazing time of Christmas, a time of so many good things. The earthly things of food, drink, presents, meeting with members of our families and friends whom we have perhaps not seen for some time. It is a time of celebration and enjoyment, looked forward to over a matter of weeks and for some months, leading up to 25<sup>th</sup> December, and all rightly so too most would say. However (and this is NOT a 'BUT'), as Christians we know that it was the time that God came to live, yes actually LIVE, on this earth and that is what makes Christmas so amazing! Of all the major religions, Christianity is the only one which celebrates God living on this earth where man could look him straight in the eye and talk with him as a human being and that was truly amazing. The term – 'Fully God, Fully Human' – is indeed one which we can apply to Jesus Christ. He knew something of the trials, tribulations, sorrows and temptations which we all experience from time to time. How often do we see ourselves, privately, if not publicly, as being weak and vulnerable? Jesus experienced all of that. How often have we, out of sheer frustration, or sorrow, shouted 'WHY?', or, 'WHY ME?' At the end of the day, we know that God has the answer, but he's just not telling us in ways that we would all recognise at that point in time. 'All will be revealed in due course of time', we are told, but we are impatient folk and, nowadays in particular, we want answers NOW! We live in a world which expects, even demands instant answers and solutions to problems. Settling for, 'We'll all find out in God's good time', is an answer which seldom satisfies us, but, so often, in the end it is what we have to settle for. Jesus knew and experienced all of this.

## Letter from the Manse

Yes, it was 2,000 years ago when he lived and many things are different today, but there are also many things which have not altered. There are still wars, suffering, want disease, poverty, cruelty, slavery, all over the world. So whilst some big steps forward have been made in many areas, many of the ills of the world which Jesus saw around him, still exist today.

When we are challenged by non-believers, or those curious about our religious belief today, they may often say – ‘If Jesus Christ was the Saviour of the world – PROVE IT!’ The reality is that whilst we can refer to many advances in the conditions under which many people in the world live, we still have a problem why so many still suffer/ sleep on the streets/starve/ experience much cruelty/ suffer from terrible diseases, why there are so many refugees right across the world looking for a better life in a foreign country – Jesus was himself a refugee at one time in his life. So we can’t ‘prove it’ at all, but what they miss is the point that our religion is a belief, held firmly and sincerely, that Jesus Christ is the Saviour of the world and he did come to live on this earth to show those who would wish to follow him, that we should follow his teachings and live in the ways which he taught us. If we did that then our world would be so much the better. Sadly, not everyone does follow the Christian creed, but for those of us who try hard to follow Christ’s teachings, we believe that our reward will come when we depart from this life.

Let us not forget – God so loved the world that he gave, just as we do at Christmas. Christ died that we might live. We celebrate this fact on a number of special occasions throughout the year, beginning with that amazing time of

## Letter from the Manse

Christmas. Jesus Christ was indeed – ‘Fully God, Fully Human’.

Let us go through this new year of 2018 remembering this at all times, no matter what the year has in store for us. Alleluia!

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### Valentines

I gave a hundred Valentines.  
A hundred did I say?  
I gave a thousand Valentines  
one cold and wintry day.  
I didn't put my name on them  
or any other words,  
because my Valentines were seeds  
for February birds

*Aileen Fisher*

**Pulpit list**

Heath URC, Free School Lane. 10.30am

February 2018

- 4 Mr Jim Walker
- 11 Rev Justine Wyatt
- 18 Rev John Jenkinson - Communion
- 25 Rev Daphne Hull

**Activities in February**

Thursday 8 February – 8.00pm Thursday Club - Tricia Atkinson - HOW WE USED TO EAT

Sunday 11 February - 4.00pm – Messy Church

Sunday 18 February – Church Annual General Meeting after morning worship

Tuesday 20 February - 10.30am - Community Coffee Morning

**Advance Notice- Saturday 17 March – 7.30pm - ELLAND MALE VOICE CHOIR**

**Weekly Events**

**Monday**

- 9.30am Toddlers (except Bank Holidays)
- 2.00pm Sing for Fun – Singing Group
- 5.45pm Beaver Scouts 5-8yrs
- 6.30pm Cub Scouts 8-10yrs

**Friday**

- 7.00pm Scouts 10-14yrs
- 7.30pm Explorer Scouts

**Pulpit Supply**

**February 2018**

- Feb. 4<sup>th</sup> Rev John Jenkinson  
Feb. 11<sup>th</sup> Mrs. Juliet Foster\*  
Feb. 18<sup>th</sup> Mr. Alan Jowett  
Feb. 25<sup>th</sup> Mr. David Truswell

\***Sunday Feb. 11<sup>th</sup>** Church Meeting after Worship

**Friendship Hour at 2.30pm**

We meet on the second and fourth Wednesdays most months to enjoy each others company. Why not come along earlier at 2.15pm for a cup of tea or coffee and meet new friends.

The meeting on February 14<sup>th</sup> it will be Donald Metcalf the subject "Did you know?" Amusing stories and on February 28<sup>th</sup> there will be an In House Speaker.

**Fellowship Hour** We meet at most first and third Wednesdays at 2.30pm for prayer and discussion.

THANK YOU

Many thanks for the Christmas Cash Collections over December. Including the collection at the Group Service on the 31st December, which was a most enjoyable collection of Carols and readings by our friend Juliet.

The total raised was £260 which has now been passed on to help at our local Overgate Hospice, Elland.

Norma.

This poem was pinned to the notice board on our latest SAGA holiday it amused me and I think it worth sharing in our magazine.

To all grandparents, parents and children  
Poem of the Year

The computer swallowed Grandma, Yes, honestly it's true! She pressed 'control and 'enter' and disappeared from view. It devoured her completely, The thought just makes me squirm. She must have caught a virus or been eaten by a worm. I've searched through the recycle bin and files of every kind; I've even used the internet, But nothing did I find. In desperation, I asked Mr. Google My searches to refine. The reply from him was negative, Not a thing was found 'on line.' So, if inside your 'inbox,' My grandma you should see, Please 'Copy', 'Scan' and 'Paste' her, and send her back to me.

This is a tribute to all the Grandmas & Grandpas who have been fearless and learned to use the Computer..... They are the greatest!!!  
*We do not stop playing because we grow old;  
We grow old because we stop playing.*



**IT'S HOW YOU SEE IT**

**Refugees**

They have no need of our help  
So do not tell me  
These haggard faces could belong to you or me  
Should life have dealt a different hand  
We need to see them for who they really are  
Chancers and scroungers  
Layabouts and Loungers  
With bombs up their sleeves  
Cut-throats and thieves  
They are not  
Welcome here  
We should make them  
Go back to where they came from  
They cannot  
Share our food  
Share our homes  
Share our countries  
Instead let us  
Build a wall to keep them out  
It is not okay to say  
These people are just like us  
A place should only belong to those who are born there  
Do not be so stupid to think that  
The world can be looked at another way  
**(Now read from bottom to top)**  
Author Brian Bilston  
Submitted by Alan Jowett who can't remember where he  
got it from.

## NEW YEAR REVOLUTIONS

Things can't go on the same for ever, change is occurring at an accelerating rate. How are we as a Church adapting to this change, or, are we trying to arrest progress in our Sunday time capsules.

The writer has just read Steinbecks Grapes of Wrath, which spotlights the injustices of the 'haves' exploiting the 'have nots'. This is now occurring on a world wide scale. One of our New Year Revolutions should be to help the displaced and exploited people more. Hats off to the new use of the Manor Drive Manse to help some of these desparate people. We can tut at the cost but will it cause any of us to go without breakfast?

Should we be continuing using the same operational structure in the URC as when it was conceived many years ago? At that time the congregations were large, young and enthusiastic. You know what it is like now, many tasks for fewer volunteers. Just running the Church system takes most of the human energy. Four Churches all struggling to survive being independent. Does the writer detect another New Year Revolution stirring? It's no good aiming for growth when all the statistics point downhill. This isn't negative thinking, its just how it is – No Guides, No Brownies, No Rainbows, No Sunday School, No Playgroup, No Youth at New Hope – any ideas?

Mike Riley.

## Pulpit Supply

### **February**

4<sup>th</sup> TBA

11<sup>th</sup> Mr. John Brooksbank

18<sup>th</sup> Mr. Trevor Bendrien (Parade)

25<sup>th</sup> Mrs. Juliet Foster (Communion)

## New Providence Diary

### **February**

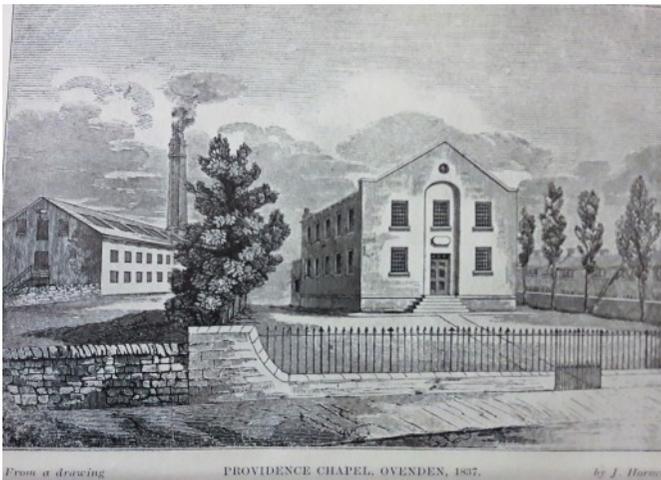
Friday's – 6.30pm Brownies at New Providence

Friday's – 6.45pm Boys Brigade & Girls Association at the Carlton Centre

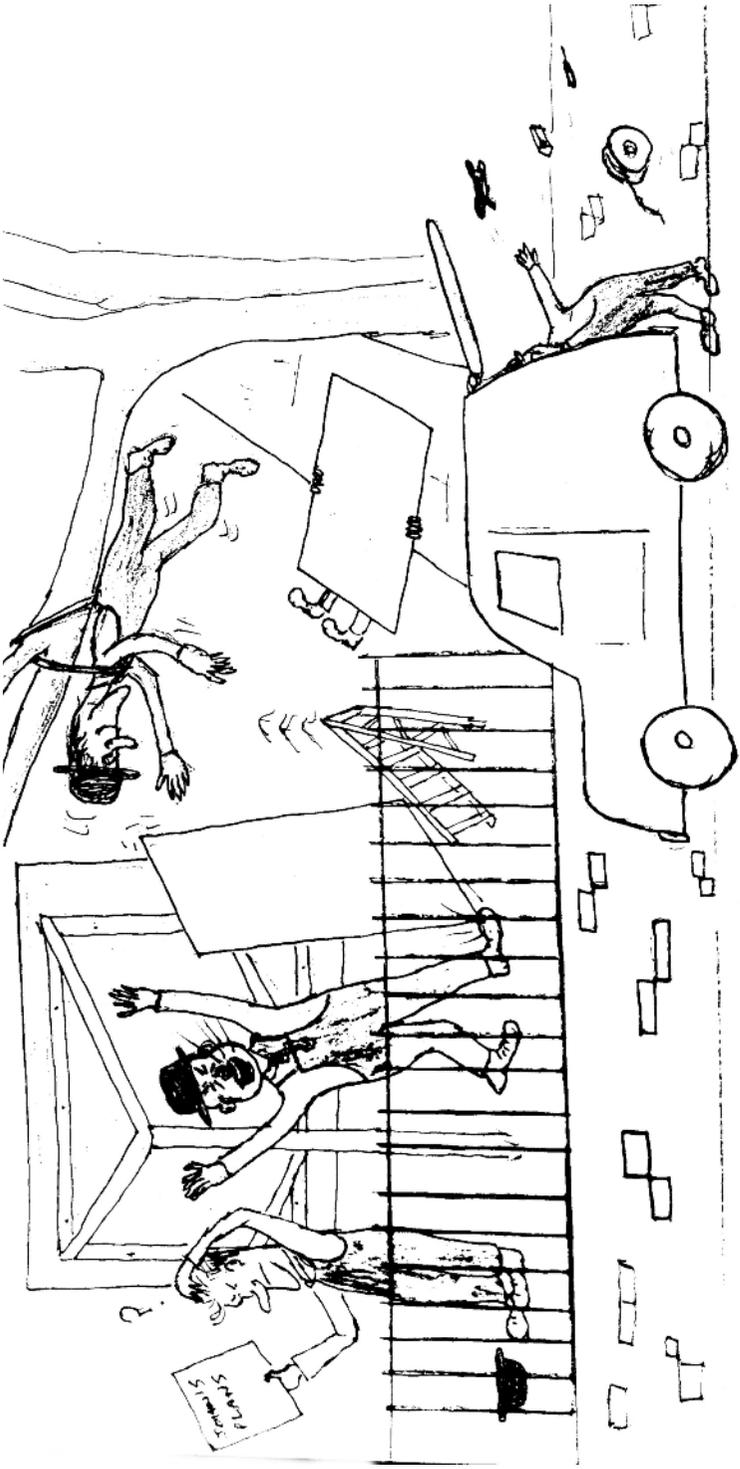
Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> – Elders Meeting

Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> – 12.45pm Church Meeting

Monday 26<sup>th</sup> – 7.30pm New Provi Circle



# NEW PROVIDENCE



Our team of five erecting the new notice board.....  
Laurel and Hardy would have been proud of us

## **SMARTEST PEOPLE IN THE WORLD**

A doctor, a lawyer, a little boy and a priest were out for a Sunday afternoon flight on a small private plane. Suddenly, the plane developed engine trouble. In spite of the best efforts of the pilot, the plane started to go down. Finally, the pilot grabbed a parachute, yelled to the passengers that they had better jump, and then he bailed out. Unfortunately, there were only three parachutes remaining. The doctor grabbed one and said "I'm a doctor, I save lives, so I must live," and jumped out. The lawyer then said, "I'm a lawyer and lawyers are the smartest people in the world. I deserve to live." He also grabbed a parachute and jumped. The priest looked at the little boy and said, "My son, I've lived a long and full life. You are young and have your whole life ahead of you. Take the last parachute and live in peace." The little boy handed the parachute back to the priest and said, "Not to worry, Father. The 'smartest man in the world' just took off with my back pack."

## **GO TO CHURCH WILLIAM**

On a sunny morning, William's mother came into her son's room and said, "William, it's Sunday. Time to get up! Time to get up and go to church! Get up!" From under the covers came mumbles, "I don't want to go!" "What do you mean?" she said. "That's silly! Now get up and get dressed and go to church!" "No!" he shot back. "I'll give you two reasons. I don't like them and they don't like me!" "Nonsense," she told him. "I'll give YOU two reasons to go. First, you are 42 years old, and second, you are the PASTOR!"

## NORMA'S WORD SEARCH

P U O R G X A F I L A H A F  
H E A T H T E D R D S A S L  
A R C L E A N A K U M G N O  
P O S N N T T Y L H N S O N  
P L E O E O U S K I I N I G  
Y G K Y F D O E N R W A T E  
N R A R D S I N S O T O U R  
E I C A T H I V O D W S L E  
W C N U E G S U O M A M O P  
Y I A R E F O O T R E Y S O  
E C P B R H S W E E P O E H  
A L W E V O R H S L I W R W  
R E D F R I E N D S A Y E E  
N S S T N E D N E D D U L N

New beginnings

Friends

Luddenden

Foot

Resolutions

Happy New Year

Icicles

When all the words have been found work out the message with the left over letters

New providence

Heath

February

Clean

Sweep

Snow

Slush

New hope

Halifax Group

Longer

Days

Pancakes

Shrove

Tuesday

## Crossword puzzle clues

**ACROSS** 1 Hurry, 5 Pilgrimage to Mecca, 9 Jesus turned water into wine here, 13 Present time, 14 Fake butter, 15 Coloured, 16 Movie award, 17 Elapse, 18 Globes, 19 Seasonal address, 20 Mooring, 21 Food container, 22 Period of time, 24 Alien's spaceship, 26 What toast does, with "up", 29 Sick, 33 Seasonal saint, 38 Boom box, 39 Elliptical, 40 Hide away, 42 Fee, 43 Even out, 45 Attired, 47 Journey, 49 Monetary unit, 50 Past, 51 Malevolence, 55 Digital audio tape, 57 Scene, 61 De (anew), 63 Tramp, 64 Resound, 65 Seasonal archer, 66 Completed, 67 Lounge, 68 Value, 69 Snaky fish, 70 Stuck up person, 71 Cult.

\*\*\*\*\*

**DOWN** 1 Seasonal gifts, 2 Take off the lid, 3 Frighten away, 4 She, 5 Faith, \_ and charity, 6 Winged, 7 Joke, 8 Successor of Moses, 9 Seasonal gift, 10 Nimbus, 11 Northeast by north, 12 Spots, 13 Cain fled to this land, 20 Sops up, 23 Licensed practical nurse, 25 Evergreen tree, 27 Pocket bread, 28 Metal fasteners, 30 Object of false worship, 31 African river, 32 \_, frankincense and myrrh, 33 Electrical current unit, 34 Declare positively, 35 Molten rock, 36 Lifts, 37 Catch sight of (KJV), 41 Shampoo brand, 44 Limb, 46 Tear, 48 Seasonal couples, 52 Habituate, 53 Theme 54 Kick out, 55 Bird Noah sent out, 56 Adam's son, 58 Computer picture button, 59 Scat!, 60 Grave, 62 Poem of praise, 63 Garden tool, 65 Hertz.

# BIBLE CROSSWORD

	1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12
13						14					15			
16						17					18			
19					20						21			
	22			23					24	25				
				26		27	28		29			30	31	32
33	34	35	36					37		38				
39					40				41		42			
43				44		45				46				
47					48		49							
			50						51		52	53	54	
	55	56			57	58	59	60			61			62
63					64					65				
66					67					68				
69					70					71				

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE  
HOW MANY DIFFERENCES CAN YOU FIND?

There is at least eighteen



# Answers

## NORMA'S WORD SEARCH

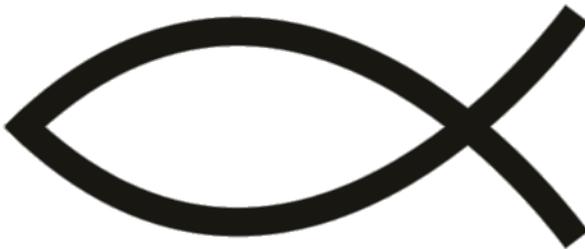
After dark months looking forwards to those summer holidays

### CROSSWORD



# GROUP CALENDAR

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>What's on</u>
Sun. Feb. 1 <sup>st</sup>		New Providence	Elders Meeting
Thu. Feb. 8 <sup>th</sup>	8.00pm	Heath	Thursday Club
Sun. Feb. 11 <sup>th</sup>	11.45pm	New Hope	Church Meeting
Sun. Feb. 11 <sup>th</sup>	12.45pm	New Providence	Church Meeting
Sun. Feb. 11 <sup>th</sup>	4.00pm	Heath	Messy Church
Wed. Feb. 14 <sup>th</sup>	2.15pm	New Hope	Friendship Hour
Sun. Feb 18 <sup>th</sup>		Heath	AGM after morning service
Tue. Feb. 20 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Heath	Community coffee club
Mon. Feb. 26 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	New Providence	New Provi Circle
Wed. Feb. 28 <sup>th</sup>	2.15pm	New Hope	Friendship Hour



# PREACHER PLAN

## HEATH URC, MANOR DRIVE, 10.30 AM

Feb. 4 <sup>th</sup>	Mr. Jim Walker
Feb. 11 <sup>th</sup>	Rev Justine Wyatt
Feb. 18 <sup>th</sup>	Rev John Jenkinson
Feb. 25 <sup>th</sup>	Rev Daphne Hull

## NEW HOPE URC, WARLEY ROAD 10.30 AM

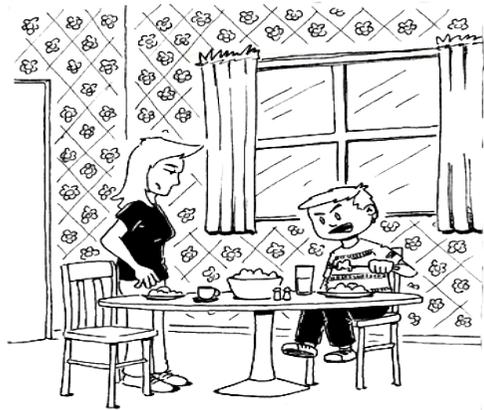
Feb. 4 <sup>th</sup>	Rev John Jenkinson
Feb. 11 <sup>th</sup>	Mrs. Juliet Foster
Feb. 18 <sup>th</sup>	Mr. Alan Jowett
Feb. 25 <sup>th</sup>	Mr. David Truswell

## NEW PROVIDENCE URC, KEIGHLEY ROAD 11.00 AM

Feb. 4 <sup>th</sup>	TBA
Feb. 11 <sup>th</sup>	Mr. John Brooksbank
Feb. 18 <sup>th</sup>	Mr. Trevor Bendrien
Feb. 25 <sup>th</sup>	Mrs. Juliet Foster



*Lent is the season  
when you give up  
something you enjoy.  
Lucky for me, I don't  
enjoy anything.*



I DON'T KNOW WHAT IT IS,  
BUT I'M PRETTY SURE I  
GAVE IT UP FOR LENT.

## Useful Numbers

- Mrs J Simmons (Heath) 365355  
Mr D Truswell (New Hope) 883908  
Mrs S Wolfenden (New Providence) 244402  
Heath URC. [www.heathchurchhalifax.org.uk](http://www.heathchurchhalifax.org.uk)  
Providence URC. [www.providencechurchovenden.org.uk](http://www.providencechurchovenden.org.uk)  
URC web site: [www.urc.org.uk](http://www.urc.org.uk)  
Yorkshire Synod [www.urcyorkshire.org.uk](http://www.urcyorkshire.org.uk)  
Robert Brook (editor) [robertbrook@sky.com](mailto:robertbrook@sky.com) 07811535832

## ■■■■■■■■■■ March/April Deadline ■■■■■■■■■■

All contribution need to be in by **Friday 9th February** please. These can be either handed in to your church reps or stop press direct to the editor at: **[robertbrook@sky.com](mailto:robertbrook@sky.com)**

Late submissions may not be inserted.

Thank you.