## Heath United Reformed Church- Parish Nursing Service

## Service Charter

**1. Backgrounds and Context for the Project**

The Health United Reformed Church is a warm and welcoming church located on the outskirts of Halifax City Centre. Halifax has a population of approx. 207000 (Office for National Statistics 2014) and is the largest town in Calderdale. Sitting on the southeastern corner of the moorland region called the South Pennines, 4 miles (6.4 km) from the M62 motorway close to Bradford, Huddersfield and Rochdale, it was known in the past for its pivotal role in the textile industry. However, the demise of these industries has left the town with a very mixed economy and high levels of deprivation.

With a small but dedicated congregation we are currently seeking to increase our outreach work and support the local community in a more meaningful and impactful way with Parish Nursing as a major expression of this ambition.

## 2. Rationale for Parish Nursing

## The Health Need

Data shows that Skircoat and Town wards have an above average elderly population and that about 10% of over 65s in the UK describe themselves as lonely. In Calderdale, this equates to approximately 3,273 being lonely most or all the time, increasing to an estimated 3,807 by 2018. Although loneliness is not confined to the elderly, evidence from Age Concern shows that loneliness and social isolation are harmful to mental health and is more detrimental than well-known risk factors such as obesity and physical inactivity. <http://www.campaigntoendloneliness.org/loneliness-research/> .

The overall purpose of our project is to reach out to this largely hidden lonely, elderly population who are at risk from or are suffering physical, psychological, emotional and social ill health through loneliness and/or isolation, and offer support, care and information through individual contact and facilitating community networking. We know from Calderdale's JSNA notes that this group of older people are overrepresented in urgent care admissions, experience harm as a result of inappropriate lengths of stays in hospital, have alcohol or tobacco dependency and experience poor mental health.

**The Faith Need**

Like many churches we are looking for new ways to demonstrate our Christian mission by engaging in meaningful social action. Evidence shows that parish nursing offers a reliable and evidence-based model of outreach work, with tangible health and spiritual outcomes for communities such as ours. There is also evidence that parish nursing can reconnect the local community with the Church encouraging social engagement and regenerating the Church as a common asset.

## 3. Overview of the Project

## Our Vision

Our vision is that people in the community, particularly the isolated elderly, will experience the love of god and healing ministry of Jesus through a parish nursing service which maintains and improves their health and wellbeing

**Our Mission**

Through our parish nursing project we will provide the community with access to free wholistic health care through Heath Church. Our mission will be to promote healthier lifestyles and prevent ill health by reducing social isolation and enabling early intervention to manage new or emerging health problems.

**Our Method**

Under the guidance of God and within a formal partnership agreement with Parish Nursing Ministries UK (PNMUK), we will pursue our mission in the following way;

We will employ a currently registered nurse with the right professional background, who is trained and certificated by Parish Nursing Ministries UK (PNMUK) for approximately 8 hours per week. Working with the Church Leadership and Congregation and Volunteers, the parish nurse will set up and run a PNMUK accredited service that offers:

* Home visits to people referred by the congregation or another health professional whose health is at risk or affected by social isolation and loneliness. The parish nurse will put in place strategies to promote social connection and healthier lifestyles or to facilitate access to care for any immediate health problems they encounter. This will include the intentional care of the spirit in line with individuals’ needs and choices.
* Providing ad hoc general health information and advice to people attending social or support groups that take place in the church

In providing all these services, the Parish Nurse, will complement, not replace existing NHS and Social Services, by acting as a:

* Health advisor
* Health Educator on health issues
* Advocate/resource person
* Liaison with faith, health, and community resources and services agent for referral
* Teacher of volunteers
* Healer of body, mind, spirit, and community.