

Halifax Group Magazine

Heath New Hope New Providence





October 2019

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

Letter from the New Manse

Dear Friends,

During the school holidays we sometimes have our eldest grandson to stay for a few days. When we lived in Milton Keynes he would often ask us to take him on a day trip to London, which was only 40 minutes away by train. On one such outing we treated him to a "flight" on the London Eye. I can only think that it's called a flight because the attraction is owned and run by British Airways. In fact passengers never completely lose contact with the ground, even though the pods go to a height of around 130 metres.

As soon as you leave ground level you begin to see London as you've not seen it before. The view from the highest point is spectacular, and I'm told that on a really clear day Windsor Castle can be seen. Familiar buildings such as the Houses of Parliament and Buckingham Palace look quite small and strangely different as they are viewed from a different perspective than usual.

I was struck by the intricacy of some of the stone work on the highest parts of some of the buildings, and even on areas that were never meant to be seen by the public, and I thought about the designers, architects and craftsmen who had built them. They would never have imagined that one day people would be able to view their work from above, yet they had given as much care to what they might have considered to be the invisible part of their project as they did to the more obvious features. They were obviously determined to do a good job regardless of whether their work would be seen or not.

Letter from the New Manse

We may never create anything as famous as the Houses of Parliament or Buckingham Palace, but we're all involved in the small tasks of everyday life. We may think that much of what we do will remain unseen, but that's no reason not trying to do it well.

St Paul, in his letter to the Colossians, wrote, "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men." That's a good philosophy, because although we may be fairly sure that other people won't see our work, we can't be certain. Furthermore, even if our work is never seen by people it will be seen by God, from whom nothing can be hidden. Paul's suggested approach to tasks is a good one, because if we think we're doing something for God we'll always try our very best and we'll more than likely do it well.

So, whatever you're going to do today, whether important or trivial, try to do it well, because the true test of our faithfulness is how we do those things that only God can see.

God bless, Heather

Pulpit list

Heath URC, Free School Lane. 10.30am

October

- 6 Mrs Valerie Jenkins Parade and Harvest Lunch
- 13 Rev Daphne Hull
- 20 Mrs Dawn Walker Communion
- 27 Rev John Jenkinson

Activities in October

Sunday 6 October – Harvest Lunch after morning service Thursday 10 October – 7.30pm Thursday Club -

CHRISTIAN AID QUIZ

Tuesday 15 October - 10.30am - Community Coffee Morning

.

Weekly Events

Regular Activities at Heath

Sunday

4.00pm Messy Church (2nd Sunday in month

Sept-June)

Monday

9.15am Toddlers (during term time)

5.30pm Beaver Scouts 6-8yrs 6.30pm Cub Scouts 8-10yrs

Tuesday

10.30am Community Coffee Club (3rd Tuesday in month)

Thursday

7.30pm Thursday Club- Social Group (2nd Thursday in month Sept – June)

Thursday 17 October – 10am – 1.00pm – Task Day – Come along and help!

2.00pm - Elders Meeting at Heath

Friday

7.30pm Scouts 10-14yrs

7.30pm Explorer Scouts 14-18 yrs

Wondering what to do during the autumn and winter months???

Check out the various community activities going on at Heath:

Eazidance Mon 2-3 - an easy movement keep fit group **Sing for Fun** Mon 2-3 – singing a variety of songs and putting on concerts occasionally;

Dawn to Dusk Mon & Wed 10-3 – day care and activities for people with dementia

Halifax Symphony Orchestra Mon 7.30 – specific instrument and ability requirements;

Zumba Tue 6-7– a lively way to keep fit; **Mamma Yoga** Wed 1.30-2.30– for mummies and little ones:

St John's Ambulance Thur 7-9 – weekly meeting; Hatton Boxing Fitness Thur 7-8, Sat 10-11 – about exercise, not becoming a boxer and suitable for beginners of all ages with a children's session too Fri 4.45 – 5.45; Sign and Sing Fri 3 sessions from 9.30 – non-verbal communication for babies and toddlers, thought through action singing;

Eazitap Fri 6-7 – tap dancing for teenagers and adults; **Music lessons various times** – A variety of instruments but limited vacancies.

For contact information please see the building use page on our website at

https://heathchurchhalifax.org.uk/table-of-activities-user-groups/ or the posters in church.

Please note that these activities are run by people who hire the building and not by Heath Church.

"The Grand Deadline Auction at Heath in October in support of the Theodora Trust is now postponed until a later date, yet to be fixed. Please continue to support us by donating items for auction, and I will notify the rearranged date as soon as it is decided. Thank you. John Seager"

Harvest prayer

Dear God,

Each season brings something new for us to see and enjoy,

With sunny days and rainy days, our crops grow larger,

Fruit and vegetables ripen, ready for us to harvest.

Thank you for all of the food we have to eat,

Let us remember people who may not have enough.



Hello Folks

How are you doing?

Life does have it's ups and downs doesn't it. One way of helping us cope through them is "Mindfulness". The NHS have an interesting article about this which I have included below. You may find it useful:

"It can be easy to rush through life without stopping to notice much.

Paying more attention to the present moment – to your own thoughts and feelings, and to the world around you – can improve your mental wellbeing.

Some people call this awareness "mindfulness". Mindfulness can help us enjoy life more and understand ourselves better. You can take steps to develop it in your own life.

What is mindfulness?

Professor Mark Williams, former director of the Oxford Mindfulness Centre, says that mindfulness means knowing directly what is going on inside and outside ourselves, moment by moment.

"It's easy to stop noticing the world around us. It's also easy to lose touch with the way our bodies are feeling and to end up living 'in our heads' – caught up in our thoughts without stopping to notice how those thoughts are driving our emotions and behaviour," he says.

"An important part of mindfulness is reconnecting with our bodies and the sensations they experience. This means waking up to the sights, sounds, smells and tastes of the

present moment. That might be something as simple as the feel of a banister as we walk upstairs.

"Another important part of mindfulness is an awareness of our thoughts and feelings as they happen moment to moment.

"It's about allowing ourselves to see the present moment clearly. When we do that, it can positively change the way we see ourselves and our lives."

How mindfulness helps mental wellbeing

Becoming more aware of the present moment can help us enjoy the world around us more and understand ourselves better.

When we become more aware of the present moment, we begin to experience afresh things that we have been taking for granted.

"Mindfulness also allows us to become more aware of the stream of thoughts and feelings that we experience," says Professor Williams, "and to see how we can become entangled in that stream in ways that are not helpful.

"This lets us stand back from our thoughts and start to see their patterns. Gradually, we can train ourselves to notice when our thoughts are taking over and realise that thoughts are simply 'mental events' that do not have to control us.

"Most of us have issues that we find hard to let go and mindfulness can help us deal with them more productively. We can ask: 'Is trying to solve this by brooding about it helpful, or am I just getting caught up in my thoughts?'

"Awareness of this kind also helps us notice signs of stress or anxiety earlier and helps us deal with them better."

Mindfulness is recommended by the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) as a way to prevent depression in people who have had 3 or more bouts of depression in the past.

How to be more mindful

Reminding yourself to take notice of your thoughts, feelings, body sensations and the world around you is the first step to mindfulness.

Notice the everyday

"Even as we go about our daily lives, we can notice the sensations of things, the food we eat, the air moving past the body as we walk," says Professor Williams. "All this may sound very small, but it has huge power to interrupt the 'autopilot' mode we often engage day to day, and to give us new perspectives on life."

Keep it regular

It can be helpful to pick a regular time – the morning journey to work or a walk at lunchtime – during which you decide to be aware of the sensations created by the world around you.

Try something new

Trying new things, such as sitting in a different seat in meetings or going somewhere new for lunch, can also help you notice the world in a new way.

Watch your thoughts

"Some people find it very difficult to practice mindfulness. As soon as they stop what they're doing, lots of thoughts and worries crowd in," says Professor Williams.

"It might be useful to remember that mindfulness isn't about making these thoughts go away, but rather about seeing them as mental events.

"Imagine standing at a bus station and seeing 'thought buses' coming and going without having to get on them and be taken away. This can be very hard at first, but with gentle persistence it is possible."...

Gentle exercise, such as walking, can help some people cope with an over-busy mind.

"Name thoughts and feelings

To develop an awareness of thoughts and feelings, some people find it helpful to silently name them: "Here's the thought that I might fail that exam". Or, "This is anxiety".

Free yourself from the past and future

You can practise mindfulness anywhere, but it can be especially helpful to take a mindful approach if you realise that, for several minutes, you have been "trapped" in reliving past problems or "pre-living" future worries.

Different mindfulness practices

As well as practising mindfulness in daily life, it can be helpful to set aside time for a more formal mindfulness practice.

Mindfulness meditation involves sitting silently and paying attention to thoughts, sounds, the sensations of breathing or parts of the body, bringing your attention back whenever the mind starts to wander"...

"Visit the Mental Health Foundation's website for an <u>online</u> mindfulness course or details of mindfulness teachers in your area.

Is mindfulness helpful for everyone?

"Mindfulness isn't the answer to everything, and it's important that our enthusiasm doesn't run ahead of the evidence," says Professor Williams.

"There's encouraging evidence for its use in health, education, prisons and workplaces, but it's important to realise that research is still going on in all of these fields. Once we have the results, we'll be able to see more clearly who mindfulness is most helpful for."

If you would like a medical topic to be included in the church magazine please let me or your church secretary know.

And finally for now: 3 John 1:2 "So dear friends, I pray that you may enjoy good health and that all may go well with you, even as your soul is getting along well."

With many blessings and please don't hesitate to contact me: 07803295002. Please leave a message and I will get back to you. Thank you.

Dawn Weald, Parish Nurse, Heath Church.

NEW HOPE

Pulpit Supply

October 2019

Oct. 6th Mrs. Juliet Foster

Oct. 13th Mr. Peter Oates

Oct. 20th Mr. Alan Jowett (Harvest Service)

Oct. 27th Mrs. Kathleen Melling

October Diary

Mondays Art Club for over 50's 1-30 p.m. to 3-30 p.m. Boys Brigade 6-30 p.m. Anchors, Juniors and Seniors (contact 832607)

Tuesdays Walking Group meet bottom of Court Lane 9-30 a.m. contact 357739 if you intend to go.

Wednesdays Friendship Hour 2-15 p.m. (2nd & 4th

Wednesdays) 9th October J Mumford - Problems with Wills, 23rd October will be Allan Stuttard - Waterwheel to email.

Every Wednesday Ladies' Keep Fit 7-30 p.m. **Thursdays** African Church Worship 5-30p.m. to 7-30 p.m.

KUMON Educational Classes for Children Wednesdays 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. and Sundays from 4 p.m.

Saturdays Maths Group 9-30 a.m. to 11 a.m.

NEW PROVIDENCE

Pulpit Supply

OCTOBER

6th.....Mr. K Lees-Wolfenden (Harvest Service)

13th....Mrs. Juliet Foster (Communion)

20th....Rev. Heather Pollard(Boys Brigade Enrolment)

27th....Mr. Andrew Mitchell

New Providence

Diary

OCTOBER

Wednesday's – 1.00pm I'm Fine Depression Group

Friday's – 6.30pm Brownies at New Providence

Friday's – 6.45pm Boy's Brigade / Girl's Association at the Carlton Centre

Sunday 6th - 12.45pm Harvest Lunch

Thursday 17th – 7.30pm Secretary/Treasurers Meeting

Monday 21st - 7.30pm – New Provi Circle

A Sense of Goose

When you see geese on their annual migrations flying in a "V" formation, you might consider what science has discovered as to why they fly that way. As each bird flaps its wings, it creates an uplift for the bird immediately following. By flying in a "V" formation, the whole flock adds at least 71 percent greater flying range than if each bird flew on its own.

People who share a common direction and sense of community can get where they are going more quickly and easily, because they are travelling on the thrust of one another.

When a goose falls out of formation, it suddenly feels the drag and resistance of trying to go it alone and quickly gets back into formation to take advantage of the lifting power of the bird in front.

If we have the sense of a goose, we will stay in formation with those people who are heading the same way we are.

When the head goose gets tired, it rotates back in the wing and another goose flies point.

It is sensible to take turns doing demanding jobs, whether with people or with geese flying south.

Geese honk from behind to encourage those up front to keep up their speed.

What message do we give when we honk from behind?

Finally - and this is important - when a goose gets sick or injured and falls out of the formation, two other geese fall out with that goose and follow it down to lend help and protection. They stay with the fallen goose until it is able to fly or until it dies; and only then do they launch out on their

own or with another formation to catch up with their own group.

If we have the sense of a goose, we will stand by each other like that.

Author not known

SLEEPWALKING INTO POWERLESSNESS

How can so much disruption be caused by so few people? (The dreaded "B" word)

Some people derive great joy from smashing bus shelter windows, others of the same ilk get into positions of power and do the same thing with a countries equilibrium. We all stand by as spectators and watch it happen,

Where is the Church in all this mayhem? We always say "Oh don't mix Church and Politics but if we don't, the disruptors will dragoon the Church into their argument, as the Eco Movement is being infiltrated by undesirable tendances now.

"If you value your country keep it pure and green like it used to be" very dangerous thinking (New Scientist 17th August 2019).

So, look out for the sudden influx of, initially, non-disruptive people. Don't think it can't happen. Many leading charities are losing out on donations due to undesirable infiltration into their midst.

A secure congregation is better than a large mainly unknown congregation.

Perhaps the writer is paranoid and should reflect less.

Mike Riley

<u>Halloween</u> is celebrated each year on October 31st, and Halloween 2019 occurs on a Thursday. It originated with the ancient festival of <u>Samhain</u>. Samhain is a Gaelic festival marking the end of the harvest season and the beginning of winter or the "darker half" of the year. Traditionally, it is celebrated from 31 October to 1 November, as the Celtic day began and ended at sunset. This is about halfway between the autumn equinox and the winter solstice. when people would light bonfires and wear costumes to ward off ghosts.

In the eighth century, Pope Gregory III designated November 1 as a time to honour all saints; soon, All Saints Day incorporated some of the traditions of Samhain. The evening before was known as All Hallows Eve, and later Halloween. Over time, Halloween evolved into a day of activities like, carving jack-o-lanterns, festive gatherings, donning costumes and eating sweet treats.

Trick-or-treating is a Halloween ritual custom for children and adults in many countries. Children in costumes travel from house to house, asking for treats with the phrase "Trick or treat". The "treat" is usually some form of sweets, although in some culture's money is used instead.

On October 4, people all over the world will be celebrating the feast day of the Patron Saint of Animals, Saint Francis of Assisi. It's customary that in remembrance of St. Francis of Assisi's love for all creatures, animals are led to churches for a special ceremony called the "Blessing of the Animals." Every year, millions of animals are blessed by priests in a ceremony that touches the hearts of most of those in attendance.

Franciscan Animal Blessings

FOR ALL ANIMALS

Blessed are you, Lord God,
maker of all living creatures.
On the fifth and sixth days of creation,
you called forth fish in the sea,
birds in the air, and animals on the land.
You inspired St. Francis to call all animals
his brothers and sisters.
We ask you to bless this animal.
By the power of your love,
enable [him or her] to live according to your plan.
May we always praise you
for all your beauty in creation.
Blessed are you, Lord our God, in all your creatures!
Amen.

Esther Everted genocide

Xerxes, the mighty ruler of Persia, Sent word for Vashti, his beautiful queen, To come and join a great royal banquet So that her beauty by all might be seen.

He went berserk when he got an answer Saying that she had refused to come in. Through all the empire, men were the bosses.

If women said, "No", that was sin

Xerxes, in fury, called his advisers And told how the queen ignored his command. They said, "Majesty, you've been insulted, So, in a way, have all men in this land."

"Now make a law," his counsellors told him,
"Preventing the queen from seeing your face,
Then you can find a beautiful woman
And crown her as queen to take Vashti's place."

"Super idea!" said Xerxes. "I'll do it!"
So through all the empire agents were seen
Searching out all the loveliest women
From whom King Xerxes could choose a new queen.

In the capital city, called Suba, Lived a Jew by the name of Mordecai, Who had a beautiful cousin, Esther, Lovely in figure, in hair and in eye.

She was one of the girls who was chosen
To go and live in the royal harem.
There for a year she had beauty treatment,
Diet and massage with oils and cream.

Then came her turn to go before Xerxes.

She was the loveliest one he had seen.

And so the king, without hesitation,

Gave a great banquet and crowned Esther queen.

Mordecai, who was a court official, Made her keep silent that she was a Jew. He discovered a plot to kill Xerxes, And she told the king about what he knew. Inquiries were made, the plotters captured,
Tried and condemned on the gallows to swing.
An account of this in empire records
Was written up by command of the king.

When, some time later, a man named Haman Was made Prime Minister of the land, The king gave orders all must bow to him. Mordecai would not obey this command.

Haman was livid. It made no difference.
Then he found out that Mordecai was a Jew
And vowed that through the whole Persian Empire,
All Jews would be killed without more ado.

With this in his mind, he went to Xerxes And said, "Through the kingdom, scattered wide, There was a race with peculiar customs Who by Persian laws refused to abide."

> He advised the king to sign a decree And Haman declared it would be fulfilled That on a day which Haman would schedule, Men, women, children, all Jews would be killed.

> > Through all provinces, Jews were in terror. In anguish, Mordecai tore all his clothes. He dressed in sackcloth and lay in ashes, Signs of deep mourning. It was not a pose.

By way of her servants, news reached Esther
That Haman had planned for Jews to be slain
And of his promise to fill the state coffers
With treasure which he from their deaths would gain.

Mordecai sent a message to Esther Which asked her to plead for help from the king. The law forbade her to go and see him. There was no way she could do such a thing!

The queen could not go into his presence
Except when summoned by royal command.
If she did, she could face execution.
Unauthorised entry totally banned!

Knowing that Jews' lives hung in the balance,

She sent her cousin these words in reply: 'I will go in and I'll talk to Xerxes. If I break the law and I die, then I die.'

Xerxes, however, received her kindly, And said he would grant her any request. So she asked him to come to a banquet Where Haman was also to be a guest.

The wife of Haman and some of his friends Suggested that he had a gallows built For next day, to have Mordecai hanged Convincing the king of Mordecai's guilt.

That night, the king was unable to sleep,
So over the empire records he pored
Finding the place where his life had been saved,
He saw that Mordecai has no reward.

Haman was summoned. The king named no names, But asked for ideas to honour a man. Thinking the king was referring to him Haman devised an elaborate plan.

He said, "I suggest he wars royal robes; A jewelled crown for his head should be made. Then, on your horse he's led round the city. All this to be done in one grand parade."

"We'll get it arranged at once," said the king. Without giving Haman a chance to reply. "The man to be honoured, make no mistake, Is the Jew with the name Mordecai."

Inwardly, Haman was seething with rage. Though no one could tell why he was dismayed. For, when kings gave orders, you had no choice.

At once, they had to be fully obeyed.

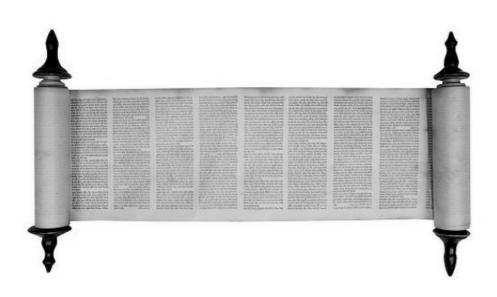
That night at the banquet which Esther held Xerxes said to her, "I'm willing to give Anything to you which you care to name." Then Esther replied, "Let my people live."

She told him how the Jews, of which she was one,

Faced execution through Haman's vile plan.
Xerxes replied, "Who would dare such a thing?
Who is responsible? Show me the man!"
"Haman's our enemy." Esther answered,
The king, in a fury, strode from the room.
Haman just stood there shaking in terror,
Aware that his might lead to his doom.

Haman was seized by palace attendants
Who then told the king of the gallows he's built.
"Take him away and hang him upon them,"
Said Xerxes, "and then he'll pay for his guilt."

Haman's successor became Mordecai And although Persian laws could not be repealed He showed the king how to make new edicts Which meant the fate of the Jews was not sealed.



Crossword Clues

Across

- 1 Silenced (6)
- 4 Allocated (8)
- 9 Kingdoms or domains (5)
- 10 Babylonians (9)
- 11 Left behind when Peter and Andrew followed Jesus (4)
- 12 Lame man's entrance to the house where Jesus healed him (4)
- 13 Depart (5)
- 15 Stamens of a crocus (7)
- 16 New thought (4)
- 19 Unhearing (4)
- 20 Absconded (7)
- 23 Enticed (5)
- 24 The coldest of the ten plagues (4)
- 25 Insult rendering the giver in danger of hell fire (4)
- 27 First visitors to the baby Jesus (9)
- 28 Twinkle (5)
- 29 Sin (8)
- 30 Physical state after absence of food (6)

Down

- 1 Written on the Priest's headband (8)
- 2 To set apart for sacred use (8)
- 3 Wise men's domain (4)
- 5 Location where Jesus met the disciples for breakfast (3,2,8)
- 6 Greediness (10)
- 7 Cured of leprosy by washing in the River Jordan (6)
- 8 Crockery (6)
- 10 Worn by Jesus on the cross (5,2,6)
- 14 Amity between David and Jonathan (10)
- 17 Against (8)
- 18 Forbidden in the seventh commandment (8)
- 21 A place to pray (6)
- 22 Country visited by Paul (6)
- 26 Hairy Old Testament hunter (4)

CROSSWORD

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Norma's Wordsearch

HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW YOUR BIBLE?

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All the words are books of both the old and new testaments. Can you recognise them? How many have I used?

"I AM" THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

Spot the fifteen differences between the two pictures





GROUP CALENDAR

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>What'son</u>			
<u>October</u>						
Sun. 6 th	After morning	service Heath	Harvest Lunch			
Sun. 6 th	12.45pm	New Providence	Harvest Lunch			
Wed. 9th	2.15pm	New Hope	Friendship Hour			
Thu. 10 th	7.30pm	Heath	Thursday Club			
Tue. 15 th	10.30am	Heath co	mmunity coffee morn			
Thu. 17 th	10.00am	Heath	Task Day			
Thu. 17 th	2.00pm	Heath	Elders Meeting			
Thu. 17 th	7.30pm	New Providence	Sec./Treas. Meeting			
Mon. 21st	7.30pm	New Providence	New Provi Circle			
Wed. 23rd	2.15pm	New Hope	Friendship Hour			

Crossword Answers

<u>Across</u>: 1 Hushed, 4 Assigned, 9 Lands, 10 Chaldeans, 11 Nets, 12 Roof, 13 Leave, 15 Saffron, 16 Idea, 19 Deaf, 20 Escaped, 23 Lured, 24 Hail, 25 Fool, 27 Shepherds, 28 Shine, 29 Trespass, 30 Hungry.

<u>Down:</u> 1 Holiness, 2 Sanctify, 3 East, 5 Sea of Tiberias, 6 Indulgence, 7 Naaman, 8 Dishes, 10 Crown of thorns, 14 Friendship, 17 Opposing, 18 Adultery, 21 Closet, 22 Greece, 26 Esau.

Norma's Wordsearch,

My message with the left over letters is:'Did you do well. There are twenty eight books listed here.
Norma

PREACHER PLAN

HEATH URC, MANOR DRIVE, 10.30 AM

6th Oct. Mrs. Valerie Jenkins

Oct. 13th Rev Daphne Hull

Oct. 20th Mrs. Dawn Walker

Oct. 27th Rev John Jenkinson

NEW HOPE URC, WARLEY ROAD 10.30 AM

6th Oct. Mrs. Juliet Foster

Oct. 13th Mr. Peter Oates

20th Mr. Alan Jowett Oct.

Oct. 27th Mrs. Kathleen Melling

NEW Providence URC, Keighley Road 11.00 am

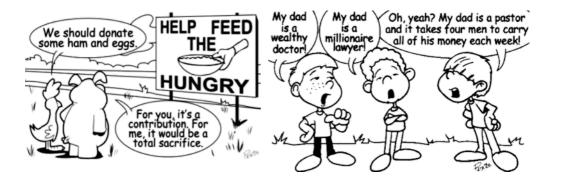
6th Mr. K. Lees Wolfenden Oct.

13th Oct. Mrs. Juliet Foster

Oct. 20th Rev Heather Pollard

Oct. 27th Mr. Andrew Mitchell





Useful Numbers

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Mr D Truswell (New Hope) 883908
Mrs S Wolfenden (New Providence) 244402

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URC web site: www.urc.org.uk

Yorkshire Synod www.urcyorkshire.org.uk

Robert Brook (editor) robertbrook@sky.com 07811535832

November Deadline

All contribution need to be in by **Wednesday October 9th Please.** These can be either handed in to your church reps or stop press direct to the editor at: robertbrook@sky.com

Thank you.