

HEATH LIVES

Number 1

August/September 2022



EDITORIAL

Welcome to the first issue of Heath Lives. The title is deliberately ambiguous—you may pronounce it whichever way you like—as we want to reflect the lives of Heath people and to show that Heath as a church is alive and flourishing.

What do we expect of a church magazine? What do you hope for as you settle down with a cup of coffee and a chocolate biscuit to read it? We want information about regular or forthcoming activities and meetings, and details of church officials, and what else?

Well, we all love gossip. I don't mean the malicious kind that the Bible warns us against but we love knowing about other people's lives and what is going on in the community. We like to read obituaries of loved congregation members or local characters, written by those who knew them. We like to know about charities we are asked to subscribe to, or that our church donates to as part of its mission. This would help us to feel more responsibility towards prayer for their well-being, their mission and their evangelism. Knowledge is a great prodder of prayer: it is hard to pray for a faceless entity - a hospice, a school, a disaster area - until you can put a human face to those you are praying for.

The big trouble is, that all these articles need people to write them. No one person will have all the contacts, all the interest, all the information and certainly not all the time, to research and write on so many subjects. It seems that church communities frequently look upon the magazine as something that is provided for them, and not something in which they could participate. Carefully put together, a magazine can be of interest to a wider group than just the congregation of the church, it can be an outreach, a tool for evangelism in the local community. If it can be produced and paid for in a sustainable way, it can be put through letterboxes of people who may never think of going to church until something 'hits the spot', and that something may be your article on the history of Mothering Sunday or someone's experience of a friendly hand extended at a difficult moment. Many people will say, 'I can't write well enough, I couldn't possibly write anything to be printed.' Well, what do you think the editor is there for? Tell your story in your own words and leave the editor to adjust your spelling, punctuation and grammar as necessary, without obscuring your voice. Or share something you have come across, tell us about a book you have enjoyed (or one you hated),

share a recipe for a dish that your family particularly relishes. And, of course, if you have a comment to make, why not write a Letter to the Editor and give us your opinion?

We have no problem with controversial subjects but we do reserve the right to refuse to publish anything that we feel would cause hurt, distress or division among our readers.

A church magazine should present a picture of a community, a family, sharing and getting to know one another better. Can we do this? Yes, we can.

The Editorial Team

MAGAZINE DEADLINE

Please ensure that all contributions for the October issue of Heath Lives
are received by the editor
before

9 a.m. on Monday 5th September

We welcome all contributions but publication is not
guaranteed.

Send to: garnetnr@outlook.com
or hand to Gemma or Anne Boyd

You cannot bring about prosperity by discouraging thrift;
You cannot help the wage-earner by pulling down the wage-payer;
You cannot further the brotherhood of man by encouraging class
hatred.

You cannot help the poor by destroying the rich.

You cannot keep out of trouble by spending more than you earn.

You cannot build character and courage by taking away a man's
initiative.

You cannot help men permanently by doing for them what they could
and should do for themselves.

Attributed to Abraham Lincoln (1809-1865)

Dear Friends,

A few weeks ago Martin and I were on holiday. Our travels took us to the Northumberland coast, Edinburgh and the Moray Firth in the Scottish Highlands. The first half of the holiday was hectic, shared with the younger generations of our family, and the second half gave us time to relax, enjoy the scenery and wildlife and revisit some favourite places.

One day we went to Chanonry Point on the Black Isle with the sole intention of seeing the dolphins that are regularly spotted there. We checked the tide tables, organised our journey to arrive at the optimum time, and joined several dozen other hopeful dolphin-spotters. Perhaps the dolphins had been warned! Although we waited for a couple of hours they were nowhere to be seen. We might have thought it a complete waste of time and petrol, except that it gave us an opportunity to enjoy the beach.

Perhaps because we live so far from the sea, we both enjoy spending time at the beach. At Chanonry Point I was struck by how different this beach is compared to the one we'd visited in Northumberland. In Northumberland the beach was ideal for our younger grandson to make sandcastles, helped by our elder grandson and Martin. It had a few small stones and shells but was mostly sand and would have been good for sunbathing had the weather been a bit warmer. There's a small stretch of sandy beach at Chanonry Point, but the best place for seeing the dolphins is a mass of different coloured stones and pebbles and is most uncomfortable to sit on.

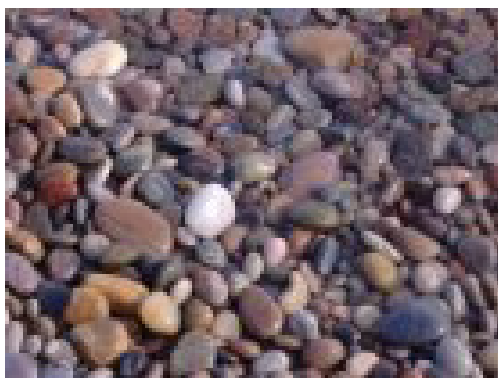
As often happens when I'm away on holiday, my thoughts about beaches led me to some deeper reflection.

I thought about the stones, with their different sizes, shapes, colours and textures, and I felt that they could represent humankind. How marvellous it is that every person is unique and beautiful, just like the stones. We can appreciate their individuality and also their collective beauty in diversity.

I also thought about the processes involved in the creation of the pebbles; the breaking away from larger lumps of rock, the weathering and the action of waves that shape and smooth them. So it is with people: we're formed and shaped through many experiences, making us the people we are, and sometimes this is painful.

At Chanonry Point there's a huge number of stones and pebbles. Some will

will have been in place for many years, others may have recently been washed ashore by the waves, and some might have been moved by the many people who visit each day. Some people have lived in the area around Heath for a long time, and others have moved in recently. It's much the same in the church: some people have been around for many years, whilst others have arrived more recently. In his first letter, St Peter writing to Christians, said, "You also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house." This fits well with the idea that the church is the people, not the building. As at the beach, there is always room for more.



Sometimes on the beach the pebbles bang into one another as they're moved around by waves or by people walking over them. In any group of people there's the potential for banging into one another; sometimes literally, and more frequently as we speak and express ourselves.

Do I prefer a sandy beach or one that's full of pebbles? If I'm honest, I don't know! It's wonderful to watch my family playing on the sand, but I also enjoy looking at the variety and beauty of pebbles.

And what about me, as a pebble? Do I prefer to be one of a few stones on a sandy beach, or one of many on a pebble beach? It depends. Much of the time I'm like a stone on a pebble beach: I meet a lot of people and enjoy their variety and uniqueness. I feel privileged that people share with me some of the more painful experiences that have shaped them. Although I know it's inevitable, I don't enjoy it when individuals bang up against one another. From time to time I become more like an isolated pebble on a sandy beach; when I'm away on holiday or on retreat, or even just spending the day at home.

How about you? Which kind of beach do you enjoy best, and if you were a pebble where would you like to be?

God bless,

Heather

PRINCE ALBERT AND NIMROD

We are all familiar with the statue of Prince Albert at Albert Park, or 'Sparrow Park' as it is familiarly known, but the unusual stance of the horse's legs has given rise to much controversy over the years, many saying that this is impossible. Some said that the sculptor committed suicide in despair after finding his error. In actual fact, the sculptor, Thomas Thorneycroft, lived for twenty-one years after finishing the statue and died at the age of seventy on 30th August 1885.

But what of the horse's legs? It is well-known that the normal action of a horse at the walk or the trot is to move the diagonally-opposite legs together followed by the other two. But this is not the horse's only gait. An irregular trot, known as 'ambling', is produced by using the nearside foreleg and hind leg together, and the two offside limbs together. This can be tiring for horses, although they will sometimes amble from choice. For the rider, the pace is smooth and very pleasant, as well as rapid, and when horses were the main form of travel they were often trained to amble. As this particular horse, Nimrod, was a favourite of the Prince's, it is more than likely that he was an ambler. This would explain the position of the legs. Considering the number of people who examined the early designs of the statue and who saw it unveiled, it is highly unlikely that a mistake of such magnitude could have been made without immediate public comment. It was an age when the horse was much more familiar to people than it is now and the sculptor was a man of considerable experience in portraying horses. It is straining credibility to the extreme to believe that he should have made so glaring an error when working with the animal before him as model.

Nimrod, the Prince's favourite, was placed at the disposal of the sculptor by Queen Victoria. Thorneycroft was also responsible for the famous statue of Queen Boadicea and her daughters on a chariot drawn by plunging horses, which stands at the end of Westminster Bridge. His equestrian statue of Queen Victoria was displayed at the Great Exhibition of London in 1851.

The Halifax statue was unveiled in September 1864. It was cast in bronze, which now bears the characteristic lime-green patina of age, and weighs one-and-a-half tons. It is nine feet high and stands on a pedestal of grey, unpolished Aberdeen granite, seven feet in height. The cost, raised by public subscription, was £1,400.



The unveiling on 17th September 1864 was a great occasion with the members of Halifax Corporation in full robes and the town's two MPs, Sir Charles Wood and Sir Francis Crossley, who walked from the Town Hall in procession to Horton Street. They were escorted by the 4th West Yorkshire Rifle Volunteers with their band, and the band of the 2nd West Yorkshire Yeomanry Cavalry. The procession was augmented by a detachment of police, Justices of the Peace, the sculptor, and various officials and clergy. A special gallery for women had been erected at Ward's End and a crowd estimated at 10,000 watched the proceedings. Sir Francis Crossley unveiled the statue while the cavalry band played 'Rule Britannia' to the cheers of the crowd. The National Anthem followed and the Mayor formally accepted the gift of the statue on behalf of the town.

The statue stood at the intersection of Ward's End and Horton Street until June 1900 when it was acknowledged to be an obstruction to the increasing flow of traffic, and the Town Council agreed that it should be removed to Heath Park, as it was then known. Nearly two years later, the Improvements Committee decided to change the name officially to Albert Park to complete the tribute.

Derek Bridge



WHAT IS THE URC?

This year the United Reformed Church turns 50!

..... but what is the United Reformed Church?

The answer to that question is best explained in two parts.

Reformed: The meaning and evolution of this term is involved and complex, so what follows here is a simplified summary.

Way back in 1517, in Germany, Martin Luther began to challenge the way church functioned and was governed, and others followed. This time became known as the Protestant Reformation. In the 1530s Henry VIII famously founded the Church of England (Anglican Church) following the principles of the Reformation. By the end of the 1500s groups of Christians were emerging who did not wish to conform to the established church (Anglican) which was linked to both monarchy and government. Breakaway groups of non-conformists became known as Separatists or Independents, and often had to worship in secret. These Independent churches eventually became known as Congregational. The Congregational Union of England and Wales, a national organization of Congregational churches, was established in 1832. It had no authority over the affiliated churches, but instead aimed to advise and support them. The Congregation (members) of a local church had the right to decide their church's forms of worship, choose their own officers and administer their own affairs. Other non-conformist denominations that emerged included Methodists, Presbyterians, Baptists and Churches of Christ.

United: In 1972 two Reformed Denominations, Congregational and Presbyterian, united to form the United Reformed Church (URC). Churches of Christ joined the URC in 1981, followed by Scottish Congregationalists in 2000.

The United Reformed Church: The United Reformed Church of

today is the union of four reformed denominations. The name may be somewhat cumbersome, but it does actually mean what it says on the tin! The URC has a three-tier structure. Local churches have an Elders' Meeting, in which the Ministers and Elders share pastoral and spiritual oversight and leadership, and a Church Meeting, where all members gather to seek God's will and to discuss the life and work of the church. At a wider level, the URC has 13 Synods, each providing oversight of local churches and led by a Synod Moderator. The annual General Assembly of the URC is its ultimate decision-making body. Ministers are elected to roles such as Synod or General Assembly Moderator. There are no special titles or regalia for such roles.



Heath United Reformed Church dates from 1890, when it opened as a Congregational Church. Heath's own history will be featured in future magazines.

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THANK YOU, HEATH!

15/06/2022

Dear Gillian

Re: Donations to Christian Aid

Thanks to all at Heath URC for collecting £654.59 during Christian Aid Week. Your help & hardwork is very important to all whom Christian Aid support. I have forwarded this donation to Christian Aid. Once again a big thank-you from the Christian Aid committee (Halifax). Please use this letter of thanks in your church magazine or place on your notice-board.

Yours sincerely

David Ingram (Treasurer)

GIVING AND RECEIVING

Most of us have the gift of giving. We get great pleasure from buying presents for those we love, from donating to our favourite charity, to sharing coffee and home-made cake with a friend. We give joyfully of our money, our time and our talents and what a waste of all three it would be if we just hoarded them, clutched them to ourselves and refused to let go.

But are we as good at receiving? We have all heard (and probably used) the phrase '(s)he needs to be needed.' We do. We like to feel that someone has trusted us enough to admit a need for help in any way, it somehow validates us and our existence. An old joke runs, 'if I am here to help others, what are the others here for?' Well, the answer to that is, that they are here to help you. No one of us can do everything necessary. I can make cakes but not vaccines, you can drive a lorry but not a flock of sheep. We can organise a community lunch and they can run a hospital. If you are unwell, you may need a doctor. If the doctor's house catches fire, he needs the fire brigade. There is something very sad and lonely about the sort of person who claims to 'like to be independent', and hates asking for help in any form, and who will even refuse help that is freely offered. These people perhaps need to learn the great gift of acceptance: of their own limitations, of the need others have to share their gifts, of our interdependency in so many ways

Yes, it can be hard to admit to a need, especially, in our society, to a need for financial help but also emotional and practical aid. However, if you are a parent and your child offers to make breakfast, even though you know you could do it better and more quickly, you accept because you know that it is important for that child's offer to be received gratefully. If you turn it down, you stifle the child's impulse to offer help, to give a gift of time and effort. When offered a seat on public transport, I always accept with thanks, not because I necessarily need it particularly at that moment but because next time it might be someone genuinely in need of rest and the person who offered no longer bothers after being turned down on previous occasions.

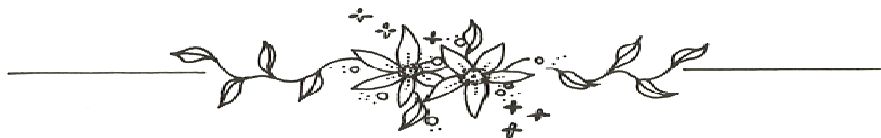
There is a natural impulse in most people to give in one way or another but in our modern world we do need to hone our ability to receive graciously and gratefully when help is offered, even if on occasion we could have managed on our own. Our acceptance gives in its turn, it gives a gift to the helper of feeling useful, a gift of acknowledging that person's abilities and goodwill. 'He who gives quickly gives twice' goes the old saying. (S)he who accepts gratefully also gives twice: in showing that we value the offer and the giver, and in granting the opportunity for that person to feel needed.

THURSDAY CLUB

The Thursday Club was formed in 1978 when a group of women decided to start a younger group than the Ladies Circle which most of our mothers went to. We called ourselves Thursday Club instead of Young Wives because we did not want to exclude anyone on grounds of gender, age or status. Our aim was to promote fellowship within the family of the church and to go out in service of those in need. We also agreed to have a nominated charity every year. I have to say that some of the original committee are still in office!!

Our numbers have fluctuated over the years but we have managed to attract new members and more recently many members are coming as couples. We meet monthly and have varied speakers or games evenings or meals out or outings. We have also provided meals at church which have brought us a good reputation and attracted people from the area, and we help with refreshments for some of the outside organisations which hold events in the church.

We meet on the second Thursday of the month, usually in the evening, and are always happy to welcome new members.



If you want to do a thing, then do it right away.
Start it - don't procrastinate, proceed with it today.
Say the kindly words you feel. Do the timely deed.
Tomorrow may be too late to fulfil somebody's need.
Make an effort of the will and make a brand new start.
Mend old quarrels, cast aside the fears that haunt the heart.
Resolve to make life work for you, don't question when or how.
Just put the wheels in motion - the time to start is now.

Kathleen Hillum (Church News Service 1997)
The Time to Start is Now

The Old Library

For those of you who didn't know, Calderdale Council have decided to close a few local libraries permanently and Skircoat library is one of them. However, a small group of local residents formed a group to try and ensure the library wouldn't be lost to you and other residents of the ward. We are pleased to let you know we were successful in our efforts and that the transfer of the library to the community is going ahead. There is still some work to do but we will be opening the doors again as an independent library and community cafe called The Old Library and it will be run and staffed by trained volunteers. We have become a registered charity already, and held our first fundraiser in May.

Our next steps include:

1. Negotiating the lease with Calderdale MBC..
2. Applying for external funding.
3. Looking for local business support.
4. Thinking about our next fundraising event.
5. Planning the recruitment and training of all our willing helpers (do you have time/skills to share?).
6. Last but not least - building our membership of the Friends of the Old Library.

We are very proud to be keeping our library for future generations, but we are also very aware that a library is, by its very nature, a non-income generating space. We must be able to balance the books to keep the doors open; something we hope you will be able to help us with. We are hoping to host a family BBQ at the library in early August, and other fundraisers throughout the year, please watch this space. Our hopes are for the space to become a hub for the community, more than just a place to borrow books - somewhere to have small



group events/meetings, share a coffee with friends and join in community events and classes, an all inclusive space for all generations.



Skircoat Green Library

If you would like to support this endeavour, please consider becoming a friend. There are several benefits for you, as well as helping us financially: You will be:-

Entitled to vote at the AGM.

The first to hear library news.

Able to have a voice in the way the library is run.

And to help Skircoat Green to retain its beautiful purpose-built library for future generations.

Please note, you do not have to sign up to borrow books. Book borrowing will always be free.

For those have already joined us- thank you.

To become a Friend please email theoldlibrary21@gmail.com and ask for an application form.

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Once in a stately passion I cried with desperate grief,
'Oh Lord, my heart is black with guile, of sinners I am chief'.
Then stooped my guardian angel and whispered from behind
'Vanity my little man, you're nothing of the kind "

James Thomson (1700 - 1748)

Contribute to the 50th Anniversary Celebrations

We need your creativity for a display at the service of Thanksgiving and Celebration on 1st October 2022, for the URC's 50th Anniversary. If you would like to take part, please decorate the reverse of a blank postcard, with words and/or images of what the URC means to you. Feel free to draw, write, paint or collage—it is up to you.

If you are happy to share them, please include your name, age, church, location and connection to the URC and send it to Sam Richards, United Reform Church House, 86 Tavistock Place, WC1H 9RT by 1st August. Postcards are available free on publishing@urc.org.uk



.ACTIVITIES IN HEATH CHURCH

Jason Whitaker Boxing Fitness.

Boxing padwork sessions available for all fitness levels and abilities including group classes, 1-to-1s and 2-to-1s.

FB: Jasonwhitakerboxingfitness

Tel: 07929372498

Kim's Dance and Movement

Tuesdays 10am - Adult Beginners' Tap Class. Suitable for complete beginners or a little bit of tap experience in the past and needing a basic recap.

Tuesdays 11am - Adult Intermediate Tap Class. Anyone from 18-80 with previous knowledge or experience in tap dancing. Fun class.

Thursdays 11am - Move & Groove Dance fitness. Over 18's Aerobic-style fitness class. A nice feel-good class with a mixture of songs/routines including salsa and Cha-cha. All abilities as you can take it at your own pace.

Contact Kim on 07747867706 or Facebook @kimsmoveandgroove

***Move to Improve* standing and seated exercise classes with Heidi.**

Help Improve your balance and posture, and strengthen muscle & bone plus improve your overall fitness.

Wednesday 2pm Back to Basics Gentle keep fit.

Friday Gentle keep fit 10am & 11.10am.

Please contact Heidi 07791869594



WEEKLY ACTIVITIES AT HEATH

Monday Hall: Calderdale All Ability Fun Kurling, Easidance, Beavers, Cubs

Monday Sanctuary: Kim's Music Lessons, Sing for Fun

Monday Sanctuary evening: Halifax Symphony Orchestra

Monday Lounge: Laurie's Music Lessons

Tuesday Hall : Kimberley Williams Dance Class, Tai Chi,

Tuesday Sanctuary: Kim's Music Lessons, Inner Wheel (monthly)

Wednesday Hall: Heidi's Fitness Class, Jason - Hatton Boxing

Wednesday Sanctuary: Kim's Music

Thursday Hall: Kim Dance Class, Eve Pilates, Shanaz Stretch Class

Thursday Sanctuary: Kim's Music Lessons

Friday Hall: Heidi Exercise Class, Tap Dancing, Scouts

Friday Lounge: Sign and Sing

Friday Sanctuary: Kim's Music Lesson

Saturday: Kim's Music Lesson

Jason's boxing also takes place on an ad-hoc basis throughout the week.

