

HEATH LIVES

Number 6

April/May 2023



EDITORIAL

Welcome to our fifth issue and once again, thanks to all our contributors. Despite the best combined efforts of the Editorial team, it seems that (hopefully only) one misprint seeps through our double proofreading in each issue: so see if you can spot today's undeliberate mistake! ((Maybe there won't be one this time).

A reminder: If you want to vote in the May local elections, you will need to take photo ID such as a passport (even if out of date), driver's licence or Metro card.

I hope I am not alone in feeling that there is a real optimism in Heath Church these days. We have been delighted to welcome new members (the latest being Graham, who has written about his hobby on page 15) and several others have joined our congregation in recent months, also very welcome. Numerical growth is not an end in itself but certainly such additions add to our fellowship in so many ways. In a world that seems increasingly angry. Heath is a haven of peace and brotherly love.

Many of the pictures used to illustrate articles in this issue are from the pixabay website.

Best wishes for a Happy Easter to all our readers.



CHURCH CONTACT DETAILS

Services are held on Sundays at 10.30 a.m. We are always pleased to welcome visitors.

Minister: Rev Heather Pollard. E-mail: ministerhalifaxgroup@gmail.com
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Dear Friends,

As I began to think about what to write in this letter it was the anniversary of the Russian invasion of Ukraine, and war was still raging. By the time you read it perhaps the sound of exploding missiles and gunfire will have died down. Perhaps the people living there will be getting the help that they need to begin rebuilding their towns and cities, and maybe they'll be being reunited with loved ones who fled the country. I hope and pray that it will be so. And yet it almost seems too much to hope for, too much to pray for, because as I write there doesn't seem much to be hopeful about and peace seems to be a distant dream.

The people of Syria and Turkey are also going through troubled times in the aftermath of the recent devastating earthquakes. I don't think we can fully comprehend the scale of their loss. With their homes and livelihoods buried in the rubble they grieve for loved ones who were killed and care for those who were injured. As we hold them in our prayers and contribute what we can to help them, we recognise that even with all the best efforts of aid agencies, charities and governments it will be a long time before there is anything like normality. As they look ahead it must be difficult for them to be hopeful and to live with the fear more earthquakes may strike in the future.

There are times in all of our lives when life is difficult, when we're sad or afraid, and when the future looks bleak rather than hopeful. The circumstances may be more personal, and probably not seen on TV screens around the world, but that doesn't diminish their impact on us.



Filled with sadness and fear, and struggling to be hopeful: maybe that's how the disciples felt on the first Good Friday and on the day that followed. Their leader and friend Jesus had suffered an excruciating death, made more difficult by the experience of feeling abandoned by God. He had been placed in a tomb and the entrance sealed. Just as the sky had unexpectedly turned dark, any hope or confidence they may

have had would have evaporated. Now they were alone. Perhaps they felt that God had let them down. The future certainly looked bleak.



And yet it wasn't as bleak as they feared. Firstly, as Jesus had tried to tell them during the Last Supper, his death would make forgiveness possible. "... this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins," he had said. This surely made their situation far less bleak than they thought, but they didn't realise it at the time.

It wasn't as bleak for another reason. The Gospel writers give different details of the surprising and amazing events of that first Easter morning, but two things are clear: the tomb was empty and Jesus was alive! They also tell us about the dawning realisation amongst the disciples of what this meant for them: their sadness turned to joy and the future was suddenly full of hope once again.

Jesus' death and resurrection are important for us too. His death brought about the possibility of forgiveness not only for those first followers but for all who follow him. His resurrection points to the reality of life after death. It's a source of hope and comfort not only for those who mourn but for all of us. As Clement of Alexandria, a Greek theologian who lived around the end of the 2nd century said, "Christ has turned all our sunsets into dawns".

For me two truths stand out about that first Easter. Firstly, God was there throughout all the darkest and most difficult moments. Secondly, God did something new and surprising to bring about an outcome that no-one could have expected. Those same truths can sustain us this Easter, in the midst of a world ravaged by war and devastated by natural disaster, and in the difficulties of our lives too. Things may seem very bleak, but God is still present and still active. Our prayers aren't futile and we can have hope.

May this Easter be a time when the sunset turns to dawn and hope, peace and even joy become a reality for us and for the whole world.

God bless,

Heather

TWO POEMS BY A.E. HOUSEMAN

From A SHROPSHIRE LAD

Loveliest of trees, the cherry now
Is hung with bloom along the bough,
And stands about the woodland ride
Wearing white for Eastertide.

Now, of my threescore years and ten,
Twenty will not come again,
And take from seventy springs a score,
It only leaves me fifty more,

And since to look at things in bloom
Fifty springs are little room,
Around the woodlands I will go
To see the cherry hung with snow.



THE CHESTNUT CASTS HIS FLAMBEAUX

The chestnut casts his flambeaux, and the flowers
Stream from the hawthorn on the wind away,
The doors clap to, the pane is blind with showers.
Pass me the can, lad; there's an end of May.

There's one spoilt spring to scant our mortal lot,
One season ruined of our little store.
May will be fine next year as like as not:
But ay, but then we shall be twenty-four.

PASSIFLORA



The passion flower is beautiful to look at and not difficult to cultivate. It was first known and used as a herbal remedy by the natives of parts of South America, including Brazil. It was discovered in Peru by a Spanish doctor in 1569 and forty years later it was introduced into Europe as an ornamental plant and, later, also as a homeopathic remedy. In low doses, it is a well-known sedative and in the First World War it was used to treat shell-shock

However, it also has an Easter symbolism, which many find interesting and which give it its common name of 'passion flower'. It is so-called because its parts can be seen as dramatically illustrating the various elements of the Crucifixion, known as the Passion of Christ, a central doctrine in the Christian faith.

There is not complete agreement about all the elements but certain key ones are generally accepted:

The ten petals are said to represent the ten faithful apostles - that is, the chosen twelve minus Judas Iscariot who betrayed Jesus for thirty pieces of silver, and Peter, who, on the night of Jesus' arrest and trial, denied him three times.

The purple-tipped tendrils are the scourge.

The Crown of Thorns pressed onto Jesus' head by the soldiers in mockery and drawing blood, is clearly seen in the dark-red corona at the centre of the blossom.

The three nails (one in each wrist and one fastening both feet to the cross) are

shown in the dark-red styles.

The yellow stamens are the five wounds (two hands, two feet and the sword-thrust in the side).

The three-lobed leaves, with their serrated edges, represent the spear.

The stigma is the sponge soaked in vinegar that Jesus was offered to drink: and the ovaries on the stalk represent the chalice used at the Last Supper.

So, whether you simply enjoy its beauty or appreciate its role as a living illustration of the Passion, this is a flower which will give lasting pleasure in your garden.

SPRING AWAKENING



During the winter hibernation, a hedgehog's heart rate drops from around 190 beats per minute to just about 20 and he breathes only once every few minutes. So, to rouse up from that depth of torpor and get back into liveliness takes a huge surge of energy.

Hedgehogs are hungry in the Spring. Very hungry. Most of them will have slept until mid-March, and so will now be awake – but starving.

We can help by putting out some shallow dishes of meaty cat or dog food or cat biscuits and water. But please do not give them bread or milk as they are unable to digest these and it will upset their stomachs. You can buy or make special hedgehog feeders.

Hedgehogs have always been popular, but, sadly, they are now classed as 'vulnerable to extinction'. Numbers have been falling rapidly, and it is estimated that there are now fewer than one million of these creatures left in the UK.

"With their coat of prickles and inquisitive nose, alongside a penchant for snuffling around our back gardens snuffling up slugs and earthworms, hedgehogs are a childhood memory of delight," said one scientist. "Sadly, hedgehogs might be banished to memories alone and lost as a source of wonder for our children and grandchildren."

Don't let Mrs Tiggywinkle be the last survivor of this species. Our grandchildren might never forgive us.

FURTHER RAMBLING ROUND SKIRCOAT

Walking along the Huddersfield Road, we come to Spring Hall, which is the third house to be built on the site and believed to be one of the oldest in Skircoat. In the 16th and 17th centuries, the Lockwood family lived there. The present house was built by Tom Holdsworth, a textile manufacturer who lived there until his death in 1885. During the First World War it was used as a hospital and, later, as a boarding house. In 1938 It was acquired by the wool company *Paton & Baldwin* who, in 1947, presented it to Halifax Corporation and after being used for many years as a meeting place for local societies it is now the office for the Registrars of Births, Marriages and Deaths.



A connection with the Crossley family comes with Manor Heath, where John Crossley built his Gothic mansion in 1852. Here, he entertained the Prince of Wales in 1863 for the opening of the Town Hall, and in 1912 King George V and Queen Mary had lunch there. Halifax Council bought the house and estate in 1929 but it was demolished in 1958 when no viable use could be found for it, and the house was replaced by a sunken garden.

A little further on, below Manor Heath and in what used to be South Grove Estate, stand Abbott's Ladies' Homes. These were established in 1877 from a charitable bequest by John Abbott. He was a bachelor with little time for the ladies but his executors provided the twelve houses in very pleasant

surroundings for 'ladies by birth and education'.

The next building of interest is the Skircoat Green Library, which was opened in 1926 as the first purpose-built public library in Halifax, replacing the earlier library opened in 1917 at Greenroyd Lodge. The new building, of a mellow sandstone, consisted of a single room with basement storage and staff accommodation. It was closed recently but a group of volunteers hopes to re-open it in the near future as a community-run centre with

library and cafe.

A walk at one time frequented by courting couples and known as "Fourteen Corners", zig-zags from Skircoat Green via Broomfield Avenue into New Lane near Stansfield House. Originally it ended in a sunken path but this has been filled in and the path is now raised and ends in steps leading down to New Lane.

Near 'The Green' itself is Dean House, the oldest house in today's Skircoat Green, which has stood since 1645. The wide road which leads at a lower level into Dudwell Lane was constructed when the cutting was made in 1925. Nearby stands 'The Gleddings', now for many years a preparatory school, but formerly the home of Sir George and Lady Fisher-Smith

Beneath the majestic viewpoint of Albert Promenade, or 'The Rocks', stands Wood Hall which bears the date 1580 on the porch. Here, Laurence Sterne, author of 'Tristram Shandy', lived with his uncle Richard Sterne for a time and attended Heath Grammar School.

Calderdale Royal Hospital opened as St. Luke's Hospital on April 9th 1901 as a Workhouse Infirmary. Later it became known as the Halifax General Hospital and was enlarged and modernised with a new maternity block and a psychiatric unit.

Yet another Crossley connection is Bermerside, now a modern apartment building. It was built by Edward Crossley in about 1872 and housed one of the best-equipped observatories in the country, which included a giant refracting telescope, the second largest in existence. By 1895 Crossley had decided that the rainy English weather and the industrial air pollution made his observatory site unsuitable for astronomy and he presented the telescope to the Lick Observatory in California, where it led to a number of discoveries. It has since been moved to New Zealand.

From 1908, Bermerside was used as an open-air school so that children who were delicate, or recovering from an illness, could benefit from the fresh air whilst being taught. At first this was carried out on a 'daily' basis, but in 1911 the estate was acquired and the mansion was used for 'boarders'. In 1969 it was adapted as a teacher-training college and was also used as a Teachers' Resources Centre.

I hope this has given you a taste of what is around us and that you will enjoy 'rambling round Skircoat' as I did.

Derek Bridge

HOT CROSS BUNS ARE FOR GOOD FRIDAY

How many times have we grumbled, early in the new year, that hot cross buns have arrived in our supermarkets already? I wonder how many shoppers are aware of their true meaning: that the cross reminds us of Jesus' sacrifice on what we now call Good Friday, and the spices of those used in his burial in the tomb.

Each year as Easter approaches, I find myself remembering Good Fridays when I was a child and how it was my favourite day, second only to Christmas Day. Unlike in the present time it truly was a holiday, a day apart, with shops and offices, and all that makes for a busy town, closed and with very little traffic on the roads. A day for being with the family. Maybe a walk.

A real treat was the hot cross buns, warm and fresh from the baker's, the baker being almost the only shop open in the town, its main purpose seemingly to sell hot cross buns on this special day. I would be given the money to run round the corner as soon as they opened to make the purchase. We lived in the centre of the busy town and I loved it when it was so quiet. Just like a Sunday! Remember? After a breakfast of buns we would walk through the almost deserted town, up the hill to a tiny little Free Church called Bethlehem Chapel, situated behind the bus station. It was painted white with an old wooden door painted blue. Inside it smelt musty and old, with very old pews, a pulpit and not much more. This was the church my Granny attended with a dozen or so of (mostly) ladies of mature years. Most of them seemed to be packed on to the front pew where Granny ushered me to sit with them. On this particular occasion, although I don't remember saying anything, suddenly in the quietness Granny, who was very deaf, 'whispered' loudly and hoarsely, 'Dorothy says she's squashed', which triggered a lot of bottom-shuffling. I wanted to disappear under the pew! Mum, Dad and I laughed about this for many a year after. I loved our annual visit to Bethlehem.



After church it was back home for lunch and then I would be allowed to open one Easter Egg. Then a walk in Richmond Park or by the river. The evening would be spent sitting by an open fire

while my father read to my mother and me.

Simple pleasures, but they made for a very special day and even if I didn't fully understand the meaning of Good Friday, I learned to respect its solemnity and specialness which set it apart from other days. To quote Wordsworth, 'Getting and spending we lay waste our powers'. Certainly by letting Good Friday become just another day, we 'lay waste' a spiritual depth, a time set apart, a time to contemplate the true meaning behind the yummy Hot Cross Buns.



Dorothy Campling

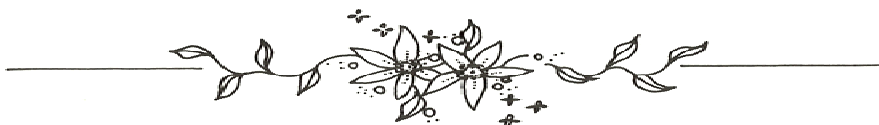
INDIFFERENCE

When Jesus came to Golgotha, they hanged him on a tree,
They drove great nails through hands and feet, and made a Calvary.
They crowned him with a crown of thorns, red were his wounds and deep,
For those were crude and cruel days, and human flesh was cheap.

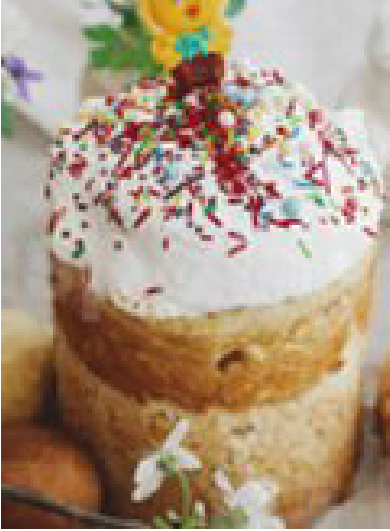
When Jesus came to Birmingham, they simply passed him by,
They never hurt a hair of him, they only let him die,
For men had grown more tender, and they would not give him pain,
They only passed down the street, and left him in the rain.

Still Jesus cried, 'Forgive them, for they know not what they do',
And still it rained the winter rain that drenched him through and through;
The crowds went home and left the streets without a soul to see,
And Jesus crouched against a wall and cried for Calvary.

G.A. Studdert Kennedy 1883-1929



UKRAINIAN EASTER BREAD



This is often baked in a pre-used 800 ml vegetable tin, e.g. a large tin of tomatoes, but any 1 litre/2lb round or loaf tin will do. Double or treble the quantities for larger or multiple loaves.

Begin the night before with the starter mixture by mashing one peeled and chopped boiled potato with 3 fl oz (70 ml) of its cooking liquid. Add 1 tblsp of plain flour, mix well and leave to rest in a warm place for 12 hrs.

The next day warm 3 fl oz (85 ml) warm (but not hot) milk with 1 1/2 tsp of dried active yeast, mix well and add to the starter.

Beat one large egg yolk or 2 small ones with 2 oz (50 g) of sugar until frothy. Fold into the milk mix. Sift 1lb 6oz (350g) of plain flour and gradually add to the milk mix to get a firm mixture. Cover with a clean tea towel and leave in a warm place for about an hour.

Moisten hands with some sunflower oil and knead the dough for approx 15 mins. Scatter 1 1/2 oz sultanas over the dough and knead them in. Oil your baking tin and fill, then leave to prove again for another hour in a warm place. Preheat your oven to gas 4, 180 C and bake the bread for about 40 minutes on the lowest shelf. Let the loaf cool completely in the tin.

For the glaze, sift 3 oz icing sugar and moisten with 1/2 tsp of vanilla extract and 1/2 teaspoon of water. Brush over loaf and decorate with hundreds and thousands if you like.

Why not bake 2 or 3 loaves at a time to make the most of your oven and give some as presents? One sachet of dried yeast is enough for 3 loaves.

Submitted by Gunhild Wilcox

HAPPY EASTER

USE IT OR LOSE IT

'The cashless society is the way forward,' I read. 'Cash is an outdated concept', and other phrases to that effect. I firmly close my ears and continue to use cash at every available opportunity. Several years ago 'they' tried to take away our cheque books, but we managed to resist that assault (I have made a point ever since of writing more cheques than I used, just to annoy the banks) and I hope that we cash-users will also resist this one. There are a number of reasons why cash should be retained, and I put them in no particular order.

There are frequent reports in the news that customers of a particular bank have no access to their money because a computer system has gone down. Lloyds, Bank of Scotland, RBS, TSB and others have all in turn suffered this inconvenience. Direct debits go unpaid, salaries are not credited and shops cannot get authorisation for card purchases while cash through an ATM is unavailable. Of course the sensible thing, provided there is enough to split, is to have money in two different institutions and hope that they don't go down at the same time but this is not always possible. Even in Sweden, a country further along than most down the road of a cashless economy, the government has suggested that people keep an amount of cash in the house against this computer-crash scenario.

Online banking, though clearly here to stay for some situations, also opens the door to scammers and hackers. There are multiple ways that crooks get hold of enough information to infiltrate accounts and clear them out, with or without the uncomprehending aid of the owner. We read every day of people who have fallen for a fraudulent telephone call and given access and lives are devastated as a result.

Debt charities are agreed that cashless shopping is a big factor in rising levels of debt. 'It didn't feel like real money,' or 'I didn't realise how much I was spending' are two frequently-heard phrases. Handing over a plastic card or waving a smart-phone in front of a terminal does not focus the mind in the same way as taking banknotes out of a handbag or wallet and physically handing them over; during which transaction one is also made aware of how much (or little) there is left. With cash, you cannot spend what you haven't got, and if you use every penny on that new computer, there won't be any left for your bus fare and you will have to walk home.

Do I really have to pay with a debit card for a £1.50 ice cream? Even if your phone keeps a track of your spending, of every small purchase of a newspaper, a bar of chocolate, a pint in the pub, it is hard to keep a mental record of multiple tiny transactions and so easy to go overdrawn. Contactless prepaid

cards are a good idea to simplify this but drop it in the street and the balance (now, anything up to £100) on the card is lost.

Online gambling is another example of how using 'invisible money' leads people to spend more than they can well afford. People (especially, apparently, women) who would think twice before going into a betting shop can sit at home and gamble in privacy and peace. It is easy to spend more than you intended. There are also many stories of children running up huge debts on parents' credit cards while playing interactive computer games. They do not always understand that they are spending real money.

If cash were discontinued, charities would lose out on collections of small change (which add up to large sums). Not everyone will go to the trouble of contacting their bank to make a donation. Fundraisers such as fairs, second-hand book stalls and cake stalls are the sort of places where it is easier to use cash for small purchases and donations.

I am aware of the questions of security and cost in moving cash around from banks to ATMs, from shops to the bank or night safe, but cyber-security is not cheap either. A cashless society would not lead to less crime but almost certainly will lead to more financial frauds. Not all victims are recompensed by the banks, since often they have ignored warnings and continued with the transfer of funds despite the banks' best efforts.

However, these are only some of the problems that would be caused by going cashless. If every transaction is electronic, your bank knows every single thing you do with your day: time-stamped and detailed is every cup of coffee, every expensive purchase, every grocery shop. This gives enormous power to the banks, to allow their customers access to their own money or to withhold it. You may think this is fanciful and that it would never happen but accounts are sometimes frozen for various reasons, not always justified though usually quoting 'money laundering' concerns,, and it can take a long time and a lot of effort to unfreeze them. How long might it be before algorithms will decide exactly what you are allowed to buy? No more 'top shelf' magazines, no more alcohol if you seem to be overdoing it, no more chocolate. Nanny will be not only be watching you, but saying 'I won't allow that'.

So let us use cash, actual physical bank notes and coins, while we still can, and resist the pressure to become a cashless society. It will be too late for regrets when we realise that we have handed over so much of our independence and the control of our own money.

THEY CALL ME "THE KING OF THE BANTAMS"



I started keeping these little friends while still at school in the '50s and was soon made a member of local Fancy clubs and shows. My dad and granddad both kept them and every spare bit of land when I was young had poultry of various sorts on it. I wanted to have some of my own, and that began my continued interest in these small creatures.

Bantams are approximately one third of the size of large fowl. They became very popular during the two world wars, because poultry food items were on ration and these little birds could survive on scraps from the table and would give fresh eggs daily, and, of course, fresh eggs were hard to come by in those war years.

I am the oldest member of the British Belgian Bantam Club, an honorary Life Member, now Vice-President and a club judge for 60 years. I have had the honour of judging at the Scottish National, the English National, the club show at Newbury and at Waregem in Belgium.

I have swept the board at some shows, taking all the awards (1,2 and 3) in all my classes at Bingley one year. I have also exported birds to the Baronese De Rosie at Castle Holstart in Belgium, where they went on to win top honours at the Brussels Poultry Show. But, although it feels good to win, the pleasure is in the beautiful creatures themselves. I also enjoy meeting my fellow-fanciers at the shows which can be anywhere in England.

Easter sees the little hens lay a clutch of eggs and they will sit on them, keeping them at a temperature of 103*, for 21 days until they hatch. And a new generation of bantams will soon be ready for the shows.

Graham Holdsworth

EID-UL-FITR

Eid-ul-Fitr, a day of celebration and rejoicing, is a Muslim festival marking the end of the Holy month of Ramadan, the month when Muslims all over the world fast from dawn to dusk, abstain from all wrong-doings, help the poor and needy, ask for forgiveness from the Lord and offer as much prayer as possible.

Eid-ul-Fitr literally means 'Festival of Breaking the Fast' and is celebrated during the first three days of Shawwal, the tenth month in the Islamic lunar calendar (April 21st-22nd by the Gregorian calendar).

The celebrations start the night before the Eid day, when we Muslims end the last fast and the first moon of Shawwal is sighted. It is called the 'Chaand Raat'. It is mostly a preparation for the Eid days:

the girls apply Henna (mahndi) to their hands and the men prepare for the next morning's Eid prayers.



The Eid day brings together the entire Muslim community and is celebrated with great zest and joy. The day starts with the special Eid prayers in the morning at the mosque where all the Muslim men, and usually the women though it is not mandatory for them, congregate and offer prayers. Afterwards, everyone greets each other by embracing and saying 'Eid Mubarak'.

Adults and children both dress up in their best clothes and, traditionally, the day is started by eating something sweet, usually a dish called 'Sheer Khurma' (vermicelli cooked in milk).

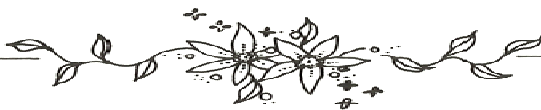
There is also a mandatory charity called Fitrana (Zakat-ul-Fitr, or almsgiving) that is given to the poor in the form of food or money and is compulsory on every self-supporting Muslim adult on behalf of themselves and their dependents, and must be given before the Eid prayer.

After the prayers, Muslims visit their friends, families and neighbours,

presenting them with Eid cards and cakes, chocolates or sweets, and giving the children either gifts or money (called an 'Eidi') as a symbol of celebration and love. The families and friends then have Eid dinner or tea together and spend as much time together as possible, visiting other households. It is also a time when it is expected of relatives and friends to end their grievances and make peace with one another.

Families and the local Muslim community are very important in our culture and any excuse for coming together in celebration is seized with joy.

Zunaira Nawaz



Lavender and Lemon Biscuits



Makes 18

Ingredients:-

120g butter
100g caster sugar
zest of 1 lemon
180g plain flour
1tablespoon dried lavender
flowers

Preheat oven to 150 C / Gas 2. Line a baking tray with baking parchment. In a bowl, cream together the butter, sugar and lemon zest. Add the flour and lavender and bring the mixture together into a ball.

Turn out onto a lightly floured work surface, or sandwich between two sheets of baking parchment, and roll out to 5mm thickness. Cut into biscuits using your favourite biscuit cutters.

Bake the biscuits in the preheated oven for 10 to 12 minutes until firm. Remove from the oven and allow to cool on the tray for a few minutes before transferring to a cooling rack to cool completely. Eat and enjoy!

MUSIC IN HALIFAX

Halifax Choral Society made its debut with a performance of Haydn's *Creation* on 9th February, 1818, and has continued to present a public concert at least once a year since, making it the oldest choral society with this record in the world.

Dubbed 'the most musical spot for its size in the country' by Charles Dibden in 1788, Halifax already had a healthy musical culture when in 1817 William Priestley (1779-1860), the cousin of Ann Walker of *Gentleman Jack* fame, arranged a 'musical evening' at his home in Lightcliffe for a group of prosperous middle-class friends. The after-dinner discussion led to the formation of the Halifax Quarterly Choral Society, although the 'Quarterly' bit of the name was eventually dropped in 1839.

Priestley was to remain a key figure in Halifax Choral Society for 42 years as a singing member and a promoter of a wide repertoire of music, collecting scores which he then copied out and annotated for the use of the Society. Some of these rare manuscripts remain in our archive, in particular an edition of Handel's *Judas Maccabeus* with Mozart's embellishments, which is now on loan to West Yorkshire Archive Service, Calderdale District Archives.

HCS also developed a close relationship with Felix Mendelssohn, introducing many of his works to Britain. In gratitude, he dedicated to the Society his setting of Psalm 114, 'When Israel Out of Egypt Came', which they first performed in 1842.

Halifax Choral Society continued to perform through both World Wars, including an annual performance of *Messiah* – a tradition that continues to this day. The post-war period, however, presented financial challenges. A local newspaper commented, after a performance of Mozart's *Requiem* in 1951, that 'none can envy those who nowadays, in a town like Halifax, have to reconcile adventurous programme-building with the balance sheet'. This is still a balancing act for the Society in the 21st century. Providing professional-quality concerts has always been an aim of HCS and our current artistic director, Philip Collin, is keen to continue this tradition and, in order to encourage young singers, we have initiated a choral scholarship programme.

Halifax Choral Society has performed in a wide range of venues over the years, from pub or hotel rooms to Town Halls, from wind-swept moors (for

a filming of an extract from the *Bronte Mass*) to major concert venues such as Manchester's Bridgewater Hall and Aldeburgh's Snape Maltings. In 1901, HCS began to perform at the Victoria Theatre, which had been built specifically for choral performances. Later changes such as the addition of a proscenium arch have made the acoustic less friendly to a choir, but we continue to perform there, particularly the annual Carols and Brass Christmas concert with the Black Dyke Band. The close relationship with Halifax Minster also continues. Halifax's Grade 1-listed 18th century Piece Hall had been the location for choral events during the second half of the 19th century, but was deemed unsuitable for outside concerts in 1890. Yorkshire weather notwithstanding, Halifax Choral Society revived the practice under the pressures of the Covid 19 pandemic, and recorded and filmed a Christmas concert in 2020 and a summer concert in 2021.

We are proud to be a Choral Society and to be part of that tradition, but we also enjoy opportunities to look forward, whether that be in our programming or our presentation. Our objective is to find the right balance between traditional and modern, and to appeal to both the young and the not so young. We want more singers to be inspired to come on the journey with us.

For more information, see our website at <https://www.halifaxchoral.org/dbpage.php?pg=home>

Dr Stella Gambling
Coordinator, Halifax Choral Society



TRIBUTE TO GRANDAD

(Ed's note: Probably few of our readers will recognise either Tom or Granddad, but we include this piece as a loving description of a good man and his legacy).

It's hard to say goodbye. I've been struggling to find the right words. Unable to shake the heavy sense of finality. Acutely aware that this may be my only real chance to say farewell to someone who had such a great influence on me. But during the process of searching for adequate words, of looking for some perfect anecdote, I think I found something else. And it all begins with you as a teacher.

If I had to pinpoint what made you such a great teacher, I would say that it was your own intellectual curiosity. You may have risen to headteacher in your career, but you were a student of life long into retirement. You understood that while you already held such a wealth of knowledge in various fields, there would always be much more out there to be attained. You loved to know things, not because you wished to better yourself or to appear knowledgeable, but because you were truly interested. You were able to process, understand and then (for me the hardest part) retain knowledge. Many lack this kind of thirst entirely: you had it in abundance.

When I think about your influence on me, and then about the many other minds you had a chance to leave an impression upon, I imagine a spiderweb of golden thread. It begins with you and is then carried outwards in many directions by those who were touched by your enthusiasm. We spin the thread as we carry it along with us in our own lives. Some may drop the thread eventually - not everyone can maintain such curiosity as yours throughout a life - but others will hold on. Some will pass it to their own children, and then on to theirs. Some will continue on and on.

So what I came to understand is that maybe we don't have to part here. Not really.

Sure, we will never again inhabit the same physical space. We will never share a laugh. You will never make fun of my football team, or my hair when it gets too long. Your sharp humour and witticisms will be sorely missed when the family get together. And I'm most sorry that you won't be around to see your younger grandchildren flourish as they grow up. Seeing how Grandma and you cared for them with my now adult eyes

helped me to understand and appreciate my own childhood, and what made it so wonderful. You were a big part in that.

We have lost you in the physical sense and there will always be a hole where you once were. How could there not be? But you will live on in us! In those that you lit a fire inside! Those who are still carrying the golden threads of curiosity with them every day. And each and every time I feel that spark within me, I will think of you. And I for one will not let go of the thread until it is torn from my hands or death takes me to join you in whatever comes next for us. That is powerful. That goes on. *You* go on. So here it is, the final lesson you taught me - and it's a pretty good closer!

It is hard to say goodbye to someone you love. But in some important way, we never have to.

Tom

HIDDEN BOOKS

There are 30 books of the Bible in this paragraph. Can you find them? This is a most remarkable puzzle. It was found by a gentleman in an airplane seat pocket, on a flight from Los Angeles to Honolulu, keeping him occupied for hours. He enjoyed it so much, he passed it on to some friends. One friend from Illinois worked on this while fishing from his john boat. Another friend studied it while playing his banjo. Elaine Taylor, a columnist friend, was so intrigued by it she mentioned it in her weekly newspaper column. Another friend judges the job of solving this puzzle so involving, she brews a cup of tea to help her nerves. There will be some names that are really easy to spot. That's a fact. Some people, however, will soon find themselves in a jam, especially since the book names are not necessarily capitalized. Truthfully, from answers we get, we are forced to admit it usually takes a minister or a scholar to see some of them at the worst. Research has shown that something in our genes is responsible for the difficulty we have in seeing the books in this paragraph. During a recent fund raising event, which featured this puzzle, the Alpha Delta Phi lemonade booth set a new record. The local paper, The Chronicle, surveyed over 200 patrons who reported that this puzzle was one of the most difficult they had ever seen. As Daniel Humana humbly puts it, "The books are all right here in plain view hidden from sight." Those able to find all of them will hear great lamentations from those who have to be shown. One revelation that may help is that books like Timothy and Samuel may occur without their numbers. Also, keep in mind, that punctuation and spaces in the middle are normal. A chipper attitude will help you compete really well against those who claim to know the answers. Remember, there is no need for a mad exodus; there really are 30 books of the Bible lurking somewhere in this paragraph waiting to be found.



SATURDAY MARKET

Abundant beauty under the sun,
whose rays light up the offered veg
and touch the fruit with magic:
but things are moving fast just now -
 'Here today and gone today
 just like my money,'
 I hear my mother say
as she buys her chosen turnip.

Photo by [Alexander Schimmeck](#) on [Unsplash](#)

Michael Collins

MAGAZINE DEADLINE

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

9 a.m. on Friday 5th May 2023

We welcome all contributions but publication is not guaranteed.

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

Please note that inclusion of an article does not necessarily mean that the Editors agree with the sentiments expressed.

ACTIVITIES IN HEATH CHURCH

On the third **Tuesday** of each month at 10.30 a.m., a **Coffee Morning** is held in the Lounge (using the Manor Drive entrance). Everyone welcome.

On the second **Thursday** of each month in the evening, we hold meetings of the **Thursday Club** . We welcome new members.

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 07747 867706 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

Email heidimolle@googlemail.com



WEEKLY ACTIVITIES AT HEATH

Regular bookings at Heath United Reformed Church September 2022

All activities and hire times are subject to change.

TT = Term time

S= Seasonal

V = Variable

O = Occasional

Day	User	Time	Location
Monday	Janet's Eazi Dance	2-3	Hall
	Steph's Community Choir	2-3	Upstairs
	Kim's music lessons (may vary)	4-5.30 TT V	Upstairs
	Laurie's music lessons	4-5 TT V	Lounge
	Beavers	6-7	Lounge/Hall
	Cubs	6.30-8	Hall
	Halifax Philatelic society	7.30-9 (2 nd Monday)	Lounge
	Halifax Symphony Orchestra	7-9.30 S roy-biggs@halifaxorchestra.org	Upstairs
Tuesday	Kim's dance class	10-12 07747867706	Hall
	Community Coffee Club	10.30-12 (3 rd Tuesday)	Lounge
	Yvonne's Tai Chi	12.45-3.45	Hall
	Kim's music lessons	4-8 TT V	Upstairs
	Scout District Meetings	7.30 – 9.30 V	Lounge
Wednes day	Kim's music lessons (may vary)	10-12 TT V	Upstairs
	Heidi's cardiac rehab	2-3 07791869594	Hall
	Jason's Boxercise	7-8 V 07929 372498	Hall
Thursday	Kim's dance class	11-12	Hall
	Thursday Club	7.30-9 (2nd Thurs)	Lounge/visit
Friday	Sign and Sing	9.45-12.45 TT	Lounge
	Heidi's cardiac rehab	10-12	Hall
	Kim's music lessons	4-5.30 TT V	Upstairs
	Janet's Eazi Tap	6-7	Hall
	Scouts & Explorers	7.30-9	Hall/ Lounge
Saturday	Kim's music lessons	9-11 TT V	Upstairs
	Calderdale Chess League	2-7 O 07504 598590	Hall
Sunday	Worship	10:30-11:30	Upstairs
Variable	Jason's 1:1 Boxing skills	V 07929 372498	Meeting Rm 2

For further details, see page 19

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