

HEATH LIVES

Number 25

August/September 2026



EDITORIAL

This issue marks the beginning of our fifth year of publication and we are very grateful for all those who have agreed to contribute, both from our own congregation and further afield. We hope that when you read this magazine you will find out all sorts of things that you didn't know before! And if you have a story, please get in touch (details on page 22) - we would be very pleased to hear from you.

Our cover photograph is of Scargill House: see article on page 15/16.

**WE INVITE YOU TO
JOIN US FOR OUR**

HARVEST LUNCH

**On
Sunday
4th October
In the Church Hall
(Manor Drive
entrance)**

**No booking
required—just come
along
£10 per person**



CHURCH CONTACT DETAILS

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

Church Secretary: Mrs Jane Simmons: heathchurchhalifax@gmail.com

Website: heathchurchhalifax.org.uk

Facebook: Heath URC in Halifax

Dear Friends

August and September are months in which many people take holidays. In August the children are off school, so people with children take their holidays then, and in September, grandparents who have been helping out with child care whilst parents have been at work over the six weeks holidays, take a well-deserved break!

Holidays can be as simple as taking a break from the routine, or can be a chance to see a part of the country or the world that you haven't seen before. If you go somewhere new, you often try to find out something about the place you are visiting.

Earlier in the year, Janet and I visited a place called Alrewas in Staffordshire, close to the National Memorial Arboretum. The Arboretum is a fascinating place for a good walk with lots to look at, and a good café too. Alrewas itself is a lovely village with a canal running through it, and plenty of coffee shops and good pubs. Alrewas is also where Whitemoor Lakes can be found. Whitemoor Lakes is a Conference and Activity Centre often used by the URC, so if you get chance to attend a conference there, I would recommend doing so, and taking the opportunity to visit the Arboretum and the village of Alrewas.

More recently, Janet and I have visited a lovely country that we had never been to before. Croatia has lovely clear water, due to the dominant limestone rock, and has many small islands, all worth exploring. We stayed on an island called Korcula, but we also visited the smaller islands of Badija and Vrnik. Badija is home to a Franciscan Monastery, and is small enough that the perimeter can easily be walked, which takes about an hour.

As many of you will know, Croatia was part of Yugoslavia between 1945 and 1992. The Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia was a communist state, but differed from others following Joseph Stalin's model in that employees had an amount of autonomy over their workplaces, and individual wealth was allowed, as well as there being a strong state influence. This was under the control of Josip Broz Tito. When Tito died in 1980, the country started a period of unrest, with many small wars taking place, before the area finally returned to something like the original make-up of six countries, rather than all being Yugoslavia. In the wars in the 1980s, over 100,000 people were killed.

I haven't visited the other countries of the former Yugoslavia, but I suspect

all are very beautiful.

When we look at the world in general today, we see major wars and unrest in the Ukraine and the Middle East, civil wars in Sudan and Myanmar, and many smaller wars across Africa and parts of Asia. It's hard to imagine what good it is all doing, and how it will be brought to an end. But I take some comfort in knowing that the result in Yugoslavia was that authoritarian rule was eventually replaced with a number of democratic countries where people enjoy increased freedom. Of course, these countries still have issues, but I hope and pray that peace will prevail in other war-torn countries, and the political systems that then emerge will be better for people everywhere.

So whether you get away in this country or abroad this August/September, or just have days out, keep your eyes open for the beauty of God's world, and give a thought to the sacrifices that may have been made by others in the past to make it what it is today.

Alan Kendall



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 Monday 6th September 2026

We welcome all contributions but publication is not guaranteed.

Send to: garmetnr@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.

UP-HILL

Does the road wind up-hill all the way?

Yes, to the very end.

Will the day's journey take the whole long day?

From morn to night, my friend.

But is there for the night a resting-place?

A roof for when the slow dark hours begin.

May not the darkness hide it from my face?

You cannot miss that inn.

Shall I meet other wayfarers at night?

Those who have gone before.

Then must I knock, or call when just in sight?

They will not keep you standing at that door.

Shall I find comfort, travel-sore and weak?

Of labour you shall find the sum.

Will there be beds for me and all who seek?

Yea, beds for all who come.

Christina Rossetti



THE HALIFAX CLERK IN KARACHI IN 1860

Some of you may know that I head the Friends of Lister Lane Cemetery, a public charity which has helped rescue and revitalise an old and long-neglected graveyard, and our group earned the King's Award for Voluntary Service in 2023. We have now researched many families connected with the site, and here is a tale we have uncovered.

The Corke family came to Halifax from Edenbridge in Kent, and by 1834 were living in Great Albion Street, where William was employed as Master at the adjacent British School, the tall building on the right towards the top of the street in this 1969 photo. William and Ann Corke already had two children when they arrived in Halifax, of whom William (junior) had been born in 1831; they worshipped at Sion Congregational Chapel, Wade Street, and two more children were baptised to them there before Ann died in 1842. William, the father, soon married again, and had more children. The family moved latterly to live in Hampden Place off Hopwood Lane.

William Corke (senior) was a busy and talented man; as well as being a school teacher, he was also a registrar of marriages, an enumerator for the 1841 census, Deacon of Sion Chapel from 1845; and later, treasurer of the Halifax Sunday School Union. As such, he was heavily involved with organising the famous Piece Hall 'Sings'. For many years he also served as Librarian of the Halifax Mechanics' Institute.

Son William attended Sion Chapel from his youth, and went to the school of which his father was Head. He started to teach at Sion Sunday School at a young age, and was well known and esteemed there for his "warm hearted friendship and literary acquirements."

As a young man, William worked for several years for Robert Whitworth & Co., worsted spinners of Lee Mills; and then for a silk spinner in Brighouse. At the age of 30, "respected by his friends, trusted by his employers and thought to have brilliant prospects," he took a job as assistant to Thomas Lidbetter, Commission Agent for Messrs R. Benson & Co of London, who dealt in cotton and calico from India. Travelling with Milford Fearnley, a wool sorter from Ovenden who was going out to work for the same firm, he was seen off at London Bridge by his three sisters and a friend, John Lord, on 16th August 1860. Their destination was Karachi, then in India, today in Pakistan.

The voyage was pleasant and they arrived safely in Karachi on 3rd October "in good health and spirits". William was invited to become a permanent boarder in the house of his boss, Mr. Lidbetter, a Quaker, originally from Kendal. The latter was delighted with his new assistant, and considered him a good prospect for a partnership.

Three weeks after arriving in Karachi, William wrote home to his father, saying he had a headache, but though he was becoming feverish, was not too unwell to work. The local doctor kept an eye on him, but by 2nd November he had developed “a smart touch of ague,” and was persuaded to retire to bed. His friend Milford Fearnley tended kindly to his needs, day and night: “The gentlest of the other sex could not have exceeded the kindness and unremitting attention which was paid to (him) by his friend.”

After rest, on the morning of the 5th, William felt rather better, and spent a couple of hours “looking over some papers for the outgoing mail.” But, taking again to his bed, his breathing became difficult, “and he breathed his last, without pain” that evening at 11.30 p.m. He was buried on the 6th at 5 p.m, and the next day his employer Mr Lidbetter wrote to inform William’s father of the sad news.

In a book published in 1867, entitled “Jubilee Memorial of Sion Chapel and Schools” by the minister Rev. Bryan Dale, M.A., who knew the Corke family well, is recorded: “We mourn that in a far off clime his sun went down while it was yet day and that his earthly remains should have been consigned to an Indian tomb.’ A memorial of him has been erected in the Halifax General Cemetery by his young friends.”



The Corke grave plot at Lister Lane Cemetery was purchased by William Corke senior in 1862, at a cost of £15, and the elaborate memorial for the son was then financed “by his young friends,” presumably from Sion Chapel. The spelling of Karachi as “Kurrachee” on the monument may cause surprise or amusement.

William Corke (senior) died at Hampden Place and was buried in the vault in 1870; others of the family are interred there too.

Young Corke’s kind friend Milford Fearnley eventually returned home from India to Ovenden, where he settled at Moss Cottage, near Watkinson Hall Farm. In 1884 he married Emma Riley at Manchester, but they had no children. Milford died in 1900.

David C Glover – revised May 2026

TALES OF THE FOREIGN OFFICE

From Glaciers to the Ganges (Part One)

Given popular demand (he said hopefully) I thought people might be interested in a few snippets from my early diplomatic life, such as it was.

I joined the FO on 4 October 1964, just 6 months after my 18th birthday having passed high enough in the Open Civil Service Competition to be considered suitable for employment there. I spent the following five years working within the FO Building in King Charles Street, Whitehall, in various political and cultural departments. My first department, concerned with various European Economic Organisations, was situated adjacent to the Foreign Secretary's suite of offices so one came into occasional contact with George Brown (remember him? - Harold Wilson's Deputy), always suitably "refreshed" after lunch. Our Permanent Secretary (the top civil servant in the FO) was Sir Paul Gore-Booth, whose outside claim to fame was as Secretary of the Sherlock Holmes Society. Living up to the part, he could occasionally be seen outside in a deerstalker hat.

In 1969 I was sent to Berne, capital of Switzerland, a plum of a posting. The city is divided into two parts by the beautiful Aare River with the Old Town being considered one of the most attractive picture-postcard places in Europe. This UNESCO-listed area features miles of medieval limestone arcades, ornate Renaissance fountains, and an iconic clock tower. There are also the large bear pits which hold a number of European Brown Bears, after which the city is named and which appear on the national flag; they are very well looked after. Some temporary inhabitants of the city included Albert Einstein, who was a clerk in the Swiss Patent Office and developed his Theory of Relativity there, as well as Kim Jong Un and John Le Carré, both of whom studied briefly in the city. Quite a trio! I once stood next to another local, Ursula Andress, with her French actor boyfriend, Jean-Paul Belmondo, in the local record shop. She was even more beautiful in real life than she was on the screen in "Dr No" and she did have more clothes on!

The small Embassy building is a short tram ride from the Old Town and I was lucky to be allocated a top floor flat in the apartment block next door. From its balcony I had some magnificent views of the Bernese Alps comprising the Eiger, Jungfrau and the Moench mountains. Can you imagine waking up and seeing these imposing mountains, especially in the winter with the heavy snows falling? For a young man in his early 20s it was like a dream after years of working in dusty Whitehall. Although I had

a modest job in the Chancery (the political part as opposed to the Commercial, Information and Consular areas) I enjoyed it very much as it was the heart of the Embassy. On the negative side, I recall vividly that 1970 was the height of plane hijackings in Jordan – anyone remember Leila Khalid? - which involved at least one of BOAC's aircraft and, with Switzerland a place renowned for being strictly neutral, the Embassy was involved in some of the negotiations for British passengers. Dark times!

It was a very sociable place outside work too; we had a club in our basement open to all so I quickly made friends with both locals and staff from other, mainly Commonwealth, Embassies. I also learned and regularly enjoyed the Swiss version of skittles, or "barbeli" as it is known, in a Bernese hostelry. I was very touched on my final departure when the club I was in presented me with a wooden plaque. Further afield and having bought a Hillman Imp car before leaving the UK I was able to travel all around the country on days off or at the weekend if I wasn't on duty. There were some beautiful spots not too far from Berne such as Thun, Brienz, Interlaken and Lucerne to enjoy on a day trip. The food was good too and quite "exotic" for an impoverished civil servant who had lived regularly on egg, beans and chips in London. Here I was able to dine on Swiss delicacies such as roesti, raclette, schnitzel, fresh river fish or fondue in chalet restaurants.

In mid 1971, after I had had a wonderful two-and-a-half years posting somebody in the FO's Personnel Department obviously decided I had had too much of a good thing so thought three years in Calcutta would wipe the smile off my face. It didn't. Fortunately I had already spent three weeks in India, Pakistan and Afghanistan four years previously when I spent my 21st birthday with my parents, who had been posted to the British High Commission in Rawalpindi in northern Pakistan.

As I would definitely need a car in Calcutta I was also told I'd need to change to a new one with a low compression engine (don't ask me, I know as much about car engines as I do about quantum mechanics i.e. next to nil)) and was recommended a Sunbeam Avenger,, the most unreliable car I've ever owned, The next question was how I was to get to India. There were 2 FO approved routes; by air directly from London or by sea from Venice to Bombay. This latter alternative was designed to give staff a chance to acclimatise before arriving in the Sub-Continent. No choice really as I rather fancied a long, leisurely sea voyage at taxpayers' expense! So, having bought my new car, I travelled for three days overland to the outskirts of Venice where the car was taken off me at the Lloyd Triestino offices to be loaded eventually on their ship, the MV Asia.

I remember thinking that was good because it would arrive at the same time as I did. In view of later events that turned out to be a somewhat optimistic thought. The regular sea route was westward through the Mediterranean, turn left at Gibraltar and, via the Canaries, sail down and round the Cape and onto India. This was a regular route in the 1960s/70s and, to date, had proceeded without anything untoward happening.

We had an uneventful and reasonably luxurious 14-day voyage to Cape Town where I experienced my first sight of Table Mountain in all its glory without its “Tablecloth” of low lying clouds. This is when things became rather dodgy. Unbeknownst to us passengers, during the leg between Tenerife and Cape Town (when we were at sea for 10 days) a war had broken out between India and Pakistan. This was caused by the Bangladesh Liberation struggle, where India had intervened to support East Pakistani separatists against what was perceived as brutal West Pakistani military rule. With this conflict showing no signs of an early resolution we were informed that the Italian ship owners had decided it would be too dangerous to complete the voyage in its entirety. Now what to do.....?

To be continued....

Stephen Wassell

PROGRAMME FOR THURSDAY CLUB

September 10th: Medical Detection Dogs

October 8th: Entertainment by Dorothy, Michael and Michael

November 12th: Christian Aid Quiz

December 10th: David Glover:
“Charles Dickens’ Connection to Halifax”

January 14th 2027: New Year Party

EVERYONE WELCOME

7.30 P.M. IN THE LOUNGE

YORKSHIRE SYNOD BIG DAY OUT 2026

John Seager and Jim Walker have already shared some of their experiences at the Big Day Out at the Yorkshire Sculpture Park on 16th May 2026, but one of the strengths of the day is that there are many things to see and do at different times of the day, so everyone's experience is different. So I make no apology for sharing my view of the day too.

One of the key elements that makes my day different is that we were also celebrating 90 years of Pilots. As mentioned elsewhere, I have been involved in Pilots all my life, and have been to all the Big Days Out organised nationally by them. And I have the badges to prove it! But Pilots is not as big an organisation as it used to be, having only about 16 companies now, where it did have hundreds in the past. Covid had a big impact, and the restructure of Children and Youth Work at the national level had a bigger one. So being able to 'piggy back' on the Yorkshire Big Day Out for our celebration made life much simpler.

As the event was being held 'up north' (as those from the south would perceive it) it was difficult to get many companies to commit to the travel. So we had just three companies represented – two from the North West, and one from Yorkshire. But those who attended had a great time. On arrival, we had art-and-craft activities in the room allocated to us. We made badges, fridge magnets and dry clay models, all on the theme of 90 years of Pilots. Our activities were open to all, but the Pilots really got in to it, some creating several of each item.

We moved on to join the main event for 'The Fisherman's Tale' over lunch, which was very entertaining. Even my grandchildren (who are 1 and 2) sat fairly still for most of the performance and really enjoyed it.

After lunch, The Pilots played games at the top of the field where 'The Fisherman's Tale' had been performed. And finally at 2.30pm it was time to come together for worship. This was a communion service like none you have ever attended before! Bread and wine (actually grape juice as it was all-age) was shared in groups of about 10 to 12, and worship was led from the stage by a team of ministers and included the sharing of fish for our prayers and gathering these together in large nets. The young children helped enormously with this!

I know the intention is to hold another Big Day Out again next year. I recommend everyone make an effort to attend as you won't regret it. There are always enough activities so that you can pick and choose what you want to do, and tailor your day to what you enjoy the most. There were around 300 people there this year, and this is more than double those who attended last year. Next year could be bigger still. A big part of the day for me is meeting up with people from other churches whom I don't see very often, but it can also be an opportunity to make new friends. I hope to see you there next year.

Alan Kendall

ISAAC LESLIE HORE-BELISHA **(1893-1957)**

Hore-Belisha was born in London in 1897 into a family of Sephardic Jews; his father Jacob Isaac died shortly after his birth and his mother Miriam remarried Charles Adair Hore in 1912. Isaac was educated at Clifton College and spent time studying in Heidelberg and Paris before going to St John's College, Oxford, in 1913. He took an enthusiastic part in debates at the Oxford Union and decided he wanted to make his name in public life.

At the outbreak of war in 1914 he joined up and as a commissioned officer went to France in 1914. He was promoted to Captain and saw service in Greece, Cyprus and Egypt. Contracting malaria in 1918, he was invalided home. He returned to Oxford, became President of the Union where his flamboyant speeches belied Liberal tendencies. He became MP for Plymouth Devonport in 1923. Under Lord Beaverbrook he wrote profitably for the Sunday and Daily Express and joined several companies' directorial boards, but his main interest was political success – quite a challenge for a Liberal in the 1920s. He saw himself as a strong social reformer with sympathy for the unemployed.

Following the financial crisis of 1931 he joined the National Government under Ramsay Macdonald and was appointed as Financial Secretary to the Treasury under Neville Chamberlain. In 1934 he became possibly the first effective Minister of Transport and took steps to increase safety by revising the Highway Code and introducing the driving test, but is probably best remembered for the pedestrian crossings marked by 'Belisha Beacons'. His flair for publicity led to his being included in the cabinet in 1936.

These successes, however, did not last. He was appointed Secretary of State for War by Neville Chamberlain, the new PM, in 1937. He was one of the youngest members of the cabinet and unlike most of them had seen service in the World War. He clashed with the orthodox military hierarchy, despite pushing through a series of reforms, and in his own words becoming 'the soldiers' friend'. In cabinet he clashed with Anthony Eden and others over co-operation with the newly-formed Italian fascist regime and his conviction that the defence of Britain was best served by using the army as a defensive force at home and relying on air power for fighting abroad.

After the Munich crisis of 1938 his views of the German regime started to change, unsurprisingly given his Jewish background. He successfully proposed increases in the budget for the armed forces and persuaded the PM to introduce conscription. He emphasised the need for support for European countries in the light of German threats. But his 'culpable showmanship' had upset the military and his being chosen as Commander-in-Chief of the British Forces was a disaster. Chamberlain decided to remove him and Hore-Belisha compounded a bad situation by refusing alternatives.

With Churchill in control he was relegated to the back benches as an Independent, having left the Liberals. During the war he had married Cynthia Elliot, who had served with the women's canteen unit in France, but was taken prisoner by the Germans. In 1944 she was awarded the

BEM. Hore-Belisha briefly held a ministerial post in the caretaker government under Churchill, but in the general election of 1945 he lost his Devonport seat to Labour; he joined the Conservatives but was not elected when he stood for Coventry South. He accepted a peerage in 1954 and made occasional speeches in the Lords. He died while leading a British delegation to France in 1957.

In retrospect his career in front-line politics was limited. Despite his successes with reforms, his ability to upset important opponents and his characteristic self-centredness and conceit, together with an underlying anti-semitic attitude towards him, limited his career and frustrated his life's ambition. He is remembered for his crossings – it could have been so much more.

Gunhild Wilcock



THE LIGHT GROUP: Angela Keenan

The Light Group is a Christian outreach and community support organisation serving Halifax and the surrounding areas. Our heart is to share God's love through practical support, friendship, prayer, and hope for those facing difficult circumstances.

Every **Sunday**, in the square of North Gate House, we provide food support for anyone in need, helping individuals and families who may be struggling with the rising cost of living or experiencing hardship.

On **Thursdays at 12:15pm**, we gather for a weekly prayer and community group where everyone is welcome. We share food, fellowship, encouragement and prayer, creating a warm and supportive environment where people can connect and find hope.

Also on Thursdays, at 6p.m., we run a **12-Step Recovery Group in Halifax**, at the New Beginnings Church, offering support to those seeking freedom from addiction and life-controlling issues. Through shared experience, faith and mutual support, we help people take positive steps towards recovery and wellbeing.

We are delighted to be opening the **Street Angels Café** on Crossley Street on **Friday 10th July**, welcoming people every Friday for drinks, cakes, snacks, conversation and friendship. Our aim is to provide a safe, welcoming space where everyone feels valued and supported.

Our outreach extends across **11 towns and cities**, where we use our referral networks and lived experience to support people into housing, rehabilitation services, recovery programmes, community groups and other essential services. We believe that every person matters and deserves the opportunity to rebuild their life with dignity, support and hope.

As a Christian organisation, we are committed to being the hands and feet of Jesus in our communities, offering practical help, compassionate support, and the message that no-one is beyond hope.

"Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven." – Matthew 5:16.

THE END OF AN ERA FOR SCARGILL HOUSE

“A thin place where earth touches Heaven and Heaven touches earth. A place which knows God’s presence.”

Michael and I joined our younger daughter and her three boys at Scargill House for the half-term family event in May: something we have enjoyed for the past decade: four days of fun, laughter, good food (we were well looked after), sound teaching and good fellowship. The focus for the week was “half-term hobbits”. Several community members dressed as hobbits sporting some very impressive hobbit feet and hobbit– and elven-ears, much to the delight of the children and adults alike. More of this later.

Scargill House in Kettlewell is home to the Scargill Movement, a Christian community holiday conference and retreat centre. It nestles in ninety-five acres of woodland and hills. As well as the original house and barns, there is an eclectic gathering of buildings added over the years with accommodation and communal dining space for some sixty guests and thirty community members accommodated around the estate. Central to the life and ethos of the community is a beautiful chapel in Scandinavian style with a sharply-sloping roof and a pine interior.

Each day begins in the chapel with all-age worship before we divide off into age-appropriate groups: crèche, primary and junior, young teens and adults. Everyone meets up for coffee or juice and biscuits at 11 o’clock, a noisy affair, the children being keen to tell and show what they have been doing. In dry weather, the children are outside exploring and learning in the beautiful surroundings.

The next noisy gathering is lunch signalled always by a hand-bell rung throughout the house. A prayer of thanks, then everyone can tuck in. Guests are encouraged to vary where they sit. Each table includes at least one community member and in the evening they serve those at their table. Other meals are self-service and everyone helps clear up.

Afternoons are free time. For us, this is a good opportunity to enjoy the peaceful walled garden. Four o’clock and it is time for tea and cakes, then activities, mainly crafts, are available while other options continue such as snooker, table tennis and football in the field behind the chapel. It is a joy to watch the children of all ages playing football together. The evenings are good old fun and games around the house—quizzes, competitions, team games and, on the last evening, an impromptu concert. The day

ends with hot chocolate, then peace and quiet descend.

It would be hard not to feel spiritually as well as physically and mentally refreshed at Scargill House. Past themes for the half-term weeks have included Pooh Bear, Paddington, Toy Story and Narnia. It is amazing how much Christian teaching can be gleaned from these stories, such as hospitality, acceptance of difference, faith, courage, kindness, tolerance and perseverance. Comparisons were drawn between Bilbo Baggins and Moses, both of whom responded to the call to embark bravely on journeys into the unknown. Bilbo placed his trust in Gandalf and became the instrument by which the Ring was rescued from evil and darkness. A huge responsibility and a huge temptation to be resisted.

Moses responded to God's call to lead the Israelites from bondage to freedom across the Red Sea: a seemingly impossible task but Moses trusted God and the way was made clear through the parting of the waters so Moses was able to lead his people to safety. Each had great faith and endurance to complete the task that had been entrusted to him. They were both just ordinary people chosen to do great things. Maybe God is calling us to do even some very small thing? How willing are we to respond?

I have called this piece 'The end of an era for Scargill House' because director Rev Phil Stone and his wife Di are retiring after 16 years of leading the community from strength to strength.



They will be truly missed. There has been a Christian community at Scargill for 60 years but it had ceased to be when in 2009 it was bought by the Scargill Movement. Since then there has been a continuing programme of renovation with exciting plans for the future. They have prayed in faith and the money has always been provided. We feel truly blessed at having experienced the wonderful welcome and fellowship which is Scargill House where "lives are shared and lives transformed".

May God lead them forward to even greater things.

Dorothy Campling

HEATH PHARMACY

Caring for our Community since 1895

For over 130 years, Heath Pharmacy has proudly served the people of Halifax with trusted healthcare, professional advice and friendly personal service offering support when people need it most. We are proud to continue that tradition while bringing modern healthcare services to the people of our local area.

As your independent local pharmacy, we offer far more than prescriptions. Our experienced team provides a wide range of NHS and private healthcare services designed to make accessing treatment easier, quicker, and more convenient for local residents.

NHS Services Available at Heath Pharmacy

Many health concerns can now be dealt with directly by our pharmacist, saving you the time and inconvenience of arranging a GP appointment.

Pharmacy First

The NHS Pharmacy First service allows eligible patients to receive advice and prescription treatment for several common conditions directly from a pharmacist. Conditions covered include sore throat (ages 5+), sinusitis (ages 12+), shingles (ages 18+), ear infections (ages 1 to 17), infected insect bites (ages 1+), impetigo (ages 1+) and uncomplicated urinary tract infections in women (ages 16 to 64). In many cases, treatment can be provided without needing to see a GP. This service will be expanding this autumn to include further conditions.

NHS Contraception Service

Whether you need a repeat supply of your oral contraceptive pill, wish to start contraception for the first time or require emergency contraception, our trained pharmacists can provide confidential consultations and ongoing support through the NHS Pharmacy Contraception Service.

Free NHS Blood Pressure Checks

High blood pressure often has no symptoms, making regular monitoring important. We offer free NHS blood pressure checks to help identify potential problems early and support better heart health. We also offer 24-hour ambulatory blood pressure monitoring where your blood pressure is

recorded for 24 waking hours and sent to your GP.

Flu and COVID Vaccinations

Protect yourself and your loved ones during the winter months with NHS and private flu vaccinations, as well as COVID vaccination services in Spring and Autumn. Vaccination remains one of the most effective ways to reduce the risk of serious illness and hospitalisation.

Prescription Services

We provide NHS & private prescription dispensing, repeat prescription management, electronic prescription nomination, medication advice and free local prescription delivery for eligible housebound patients. Our aim is to make obtaining your medicines as straightforward as possible. We usually have most prescriptions ready the next working day after we have received them.

Private Healthcare Services

Alongside our NHS services, Heath Pharmacy offers a growing range of affordable private clinics, providing convenient access to healthcare without long waiting times.

Ear Wax Removal Clinic - £40 for one ear or £75 for both ears

Blocked ears can affect hearing, balance and comfort. Our professional ear wax removal service uses safe microsuction and irrigation techniques performed by trained healthcare professionals. Many patients experience immediate relief and improved hearing.

Cryotherapy Clinic – starting from £55

We offer cryotherapy treatment for a range of benign skin lesions including warts, verrucae, skin tags and certain other skin conditions. Treatment is quick and effective and carried out in a professional clinical environment.

Travel Vaccinations and Travel Health Clinic

Whether you're travelling for business, leisure, or a family holiday, our travel clinic can help keep you protected. We provide travel health consultations, travel vaccinations and malaria prevention advice tailored to your destination. Prices vary, please see our website or give us a call for more information.

Weight Loss Clinic – starting from £100

If you are struggling to lose weight, our pharmacist-led weight management service offers professional support and access to appropriate treatment where suitable. We combine medication guidance with practical lifestyle advice to help patients achieve sustainable long-term results.

Vitamin B12 Injections - £30 per dose

Low Vitamin B12 levels can contribute to tiredness, fatigue and reduced energy levels. Our private Vitamin B12 injection service provides a convenient way for eligible patients to boost their levels following consultation.

A Pharmacy at the Heart of the Community

Located beside St Jude's Church in Savile Park, Heath Pharmacy has been serving local families for generations. We pride ourselves on combining traditional personal service with modern healthcare solutions. Whether you need advice about a minor illness, support with long-term medication, vaccinations, travel health advice or one of our specialist clinics, our team is here to help.

Healthcare should be accessible, friendly and convenient. At Heath Pharmacy, you'll always find a welcoming face, professional advice and a genuine commitment to supporting the health and wellbeing of our community.



From all the team at Heath Pharmacy — we wish you good health, happiness, and peace.

Harendra Patel

COMMUNICATION

We communicate with each other in so many ways nowadays. To many of us who are advanced in years, the whole concept of using FaceBook and similar methods is difficult to grasp and seems merely a modern way of gossiping: the use of e-mails and text messages is usually the extent of our capability. When we were young, even the telephone was slightly alien to us and something to be used only in an emergency, for calling the doctor or some such need. We could not 'phone friends, for scarcely anyone had a telephone in the house.

One-way communication was by the wireless, a method which came into its own during the war for news bulletins. This has always been remembered as a time when news-readers and other presenters spoke clearly in a measured and precise way which is regrettably lacking in the present day on both radio and television, when the sole aim seems to be to speak as quickly as possible, regardless of clarity. Television came later and has become a mixed blessing.

At one time, the chief communication with someone at a distance was by letter, a form which has almost died out now and has become a lost art. It was an excellent way of expressing our thoughts in a clear and considered way and some letters were kept for years and treasured.

The actual form of script conveyed so much of the writer's personality and character and was often easily recognised by the recipient. Even the humble postcard could be both useful and of interest. The telegram, of course, was valuable in its own way but was, I suppose, the precursor of the present day text message with its severe abbreviations. Text messages, as used now, all too often tend to be virtually unintelligible with quite ridiculous abbreviations and the substitution of symbols such as '4' in place of 'for'.

When all is said and done, the chief form of communication is speech. Conversation is the main method of transferring our thoughts and ideas to another. Of course, language is a growing, developing thing and present-day speech is rather different from what it was seventy or eighty years ago.

Unfortunately, speech and most forms of writing lack the precise grammar of earlier days and to some of us this can be disappointing. I was educated in a grammar school and, as its name implies, we were given a thorough

grounding in English grammar, spending hours parsing sentences and breaking them down into their different parts of speech. This in turn was followed by the grammar of other languages, French, Latin and Greek, and perhaps German: and in the end, we had a full realisation of the importance of grammar to understanding what we read and heard as well as an appreciation of how to use it to make our own thoughts clearer and less ambiguous to others.

It is a source of regret that the media do not take more care in this matter. All too often we come across glaring errors in newspapers, not just misprints, and radio and television are equally culpable. In most cases, this is due only to carelessness or the pressure placed upon the writer or speaker, although we cannot discount the sheer ignorance of English grammar nowadays due no doubt to the lack of emphasis on it in schools and general indifference.

All seems to be sacrificed to speed. I do not suppose we shall see any improvement but what a pity it is to see or hear the language of Shakespeare, Milton, Dickens and other great writers of the past debased in this way,

‘The times are changed and we change with them’. But must we?

Derek Bridge

RED LANE URC, BOLTON AND ITS FUTURE

I was sad to hear recently that the church I grew up in, Red Lane URC, is planning to sell the building it worships in. This building was built and opened as a church in the 1950s, and my mum and dad were founder members. Through the 60s and 70s it was a thriving church that continued to grow, even expanding the building with a new modern sanctuary, with the old sanctuary being used as a junior church room – one of four that were in use at that time.

My mother was the church secretary and treasurer at different times, and Pilot leader for about 60 years, and my father was church leader for many years. Both of course were Junior Church teachers for many years. As my mother is now 91, she has stood down from all these positions, although she is still an Elder. My brother-in-law (some of you will know Barry Bradshaw) was secretary for some time. But he recently had to stand down as he has now had a diagnosis of Alzheimer's. So this means my sister is now secretary, and having to steer the church through some difficult decisions. (cont'd...)

The membership is down to around a dozen, with regular church attendance around the same. There are more Elders than members who are not Elders!

But the church is well used. There is another church that hires the building from Red Lane for their worship on a Sunday afternoon – much as we have Northern Lights that use our church building. There are hirers throughout the week. And the Pilots company that I grew up attending is still going – with around 20 young people attending each week. For them, this is their church.

So it would be a great shame if the church were to close entirely, simply because of low attendance on a Sunday morning. The church has been struggling with what to do for some years. They have tried everything possible to increase numbers on a Sunday morning.

But they had to find a way forward. Hilary, my sister, has therefore progressed the idea of selling the building to a third party who would run the building. Certain clauses need to be written in to the agreement to ensure the church can continue to meet there, but it seems likely they will become a building-user much as other users are. Whilst this is very sad for those of us with an interest in the church's history, we have to see that this is better than the alternative of closing altogether.

At the time of writing, I have just watched a service preached by Rev. Tafadzwa Kasere, where he talked about Jesus' plan. He points out that this can be very different from our plans. It is often hard to see where Jesus is going – in our personal lives, and in the bigger picture. When things happen that are not expected, we just have to trust in Jesus as, to be fair, he normally knows what he is doing! We don't know what the future holds for Red Lane URC, and neither do we know what the future holds for Heath URC, but we are thankful that, for the time being at least, Heath is still thriving in many ways, though it sometimes feels as if the workers are few! It is important to remember that a church building is just a building, and not the church! Red Lane URC will continue for the time being at least, even if they no longer own a building.

Alan Kendall

ACTIVITIES IN HEATH CHURCH

If you would like to be included on this page, please send the editor a brief summary.

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 at 7.30 in the evening, we hold meetings of the **Thursday Club** in the lounge . We welcome new members. We host a variety of speakers and activities for men and women of any age. (some activities may be at other locations, so always check our website heathchurchhalifax.co.uk before coming).

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 at 6.15 p.m. and 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



Regular bookings at Heath United Reformed Church Summer 2026			
All activities and hire times are subject to change particularly during the holiday period			
TT = Term time S = Seasonal V = Variable O = Occasional			
Day	User	Time	Location
Monday	Coccinelle French Class	11.30-3 TT ellie.fitzgerald1@outlook.com	Lounge
	Janet's Eazi Dance	2-3 janetfletcher5@yahoo.com	Hall
	Sing for Fun	2-3 no need to book	Upstairs
	Beavers	6-7 Beavers @49thhalifax.org.uk	Lounge & Hall
	Cubs	6.30-8 Cubs@49thhalifax.org.uk	Hall
	Halifax Symphony Orchestra	7-9.30 S roybiggs@halifaxorchestra.org	Upstairs
Tuesday	Community Coffee Club	10.30-12 (3 rd Tuesday) heathchurchhalifax@gmail.com	Lounge
	Yvonne's Tai Chi	1.30-3.30	Hall
	Kim's music lessons	4.15-8.15 pm TT	Upstairs
	Kim's dance class	6.15-7.15 07747 867706	Hall
	Scout leaders' Meetings	7.30 – 9.30 V	Lounge
Wednesday	Northern Lights House Group	10.30-12.30 fortnightly 07929 372498	Lounge
	Heidi's cardiac rehab	2-3 07791 869594	Hall
	St John's Ambulance Cadets	6-9	Hall
Thursday	Heath Study Group	10.30-12 V 01422 431424 heathchurchhalifax@gmail.com	Lounge
	WAM choir	10-12 S	Upstairs
	Kim's dance class	11-12 07747 867706	Hall
	Halifax Young Singers	6-9 TT halifaxyoungsingers2@gmail.com	Upstairs
	Thursday Club	7.30-9 (2nd Thurs) S heathchurchhalifax@gmail.com	Lounge/visit
Friday	Heidi's cardiac rehab	10-12 07791869594	Hall
	Holistic Wellbeing Yoga	1 – 2 pm holisticwellbeingspace@gmail.com	Hall
	Kim's music lessons	4.15-6.15 pm TT	Upstairs
	Scouts & Explorer Scouts	7.30-9 Scouts@49thhalifax.org.uk	Hall & Lounge
Saturday	Kim's music lessons	8.15-11.15 TT	Upstairs
	Calderdale Chess League	2.00 -7.00 07504 598590 O	Hall
Sunday	Heath's Worship	10-12 Service 10:30-11:30 07748988161	Upstairs
	Northern Lights	2.30-6 07970 256243 (Independent church, not linked to Heath)	Hall/Lounge

For further details, please see page 23